

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Senate Higher Education Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Andie Karrenbauer, and I am a Social Work major at Miami University. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

If you have lived, chances are that a social worker has touched some part of your life. A social worker advocates for your child in court, counsels your family through grief, provides necessary care to your loved ones in facilities, provides essential services to those in poverty, writes legislation, and much more. If SB1 were to pass, it would not only ensure that social work students are unequipped to work with these diverse populations, it also means that they wouldn't be allowed to get a license at all.

Requiring social work programs to achieve and maintain competency in the areas of diversity, privilege, oppression, and intersectionality has been central to the Council on Social Work Education's (CSWE) accreditation standards since 1952, over 70 years. Without accreditation, Ohio's Schools of Social Work graduates could no longer achieve licensure. This means that my education, along with my peers and every student that comes after me, will be unable to continue in the social work profession in the state of Ohio. An education that does not provide an understanding of racial and social injustice nor prepare social workers to engage effectively with clients of all backgrounds, belief systems, and identities is not a social work education.

Among setting standards for cultural competence within the social work profession, our code of ethics states that "Social workers should demonstrate awareness and cultural humility by...holding institutions accountable for advancing cultural humility." Today I am urging you to hold yourselves accountable for my and my peers' educations and vote against SB1.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this harmful bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.