

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 Marci Cottingham. I am a professor at Kenyon College. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

I moved to Ohio with my family in 2022. As my husband and I are both originally from the Midwest, we wanted to contribute more fully to our communities and develop our careers, I as an academic and he as a software engineer. We believed that Ohio would invest in families, communities, and higher education. But in seeing SB 1 spell out plans for retrenchment, the elimination of faculty, and programs, as well as micro-managing faculty's research and teaching, it seems that, not only is the state not investing, but it is trying to commandeer and drive out excellent faculty.

Governor DeWine's latest budget lays out plans to try to [keep students in Ohio for college](#), but if Ohio faculty are not afforded full academic freedom to pursue research and teaching based on intellectual curiosity and expertise, then Ohio higher education will not remain competitive.

I teach sociology, and sociology is clearly in the cross-hairs of this bill. Yet, former students as different from each other as Ronald Reagan and Martin Luther King, Jr. studied sociology and so-called "controversial beliefs." SB 1 would eliminate the kind of education these men received and would poorly prepare our students for the future—a future in which controversy must be studied and understood, not censored by the state.

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

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Marci Cottingham