



HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Witness Form

Today's Date 2/10/25

Name: Erin McGuire

Address: 543 Chatham Road
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Organization Representing: Self

Testifying on Bill Number: Senate Bill 1

Testimony: Verbal Written Both

Testifying As: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Are you a Registered Lobbyist? Yes No

Special Requests: None

Senate Bill 1
Erin McGuire
Opponent Testimony
Senate Higher Education Committee

February 10, 2025

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 Erin McGuire. I am a professor at one of Ohio's two-year colleges. I strongly oppose SB 1.

As a teacher I oppose this bill because it negatively impacts a faculty member's ability to help students achieve their academic and career goals. Students at Ohio's colleges work hard to achieve a better future for themselves, their families, and their communities. I have worked with two-year college students for 16 years and deeply admire their tenacity and focus. Most students are focused on obtaining jobs in very specific career fields; they want to stay in and serve their communities. It is important that colleges are allowed to reach out to all student populations and help those populations be successful. Such success lifts Ohio's communities, their economies, and the entire state. I fear SB 1 will eliminate efforts to increase success for all Ohio students.

Further, the bill places undue burden on faculty and staff to overhaul policies to align with the legislation. Such unduly burdensome work (e.g., revising our student evaluation processes and redesigning syllabi) will likely be unpaid, and, at smaller institutions like two-year colleges, will fall on a small number of faculty and staff. We are committed to no other ideology than each Ohioan's access to a college education and the opportunity such an education unlocks. We are not opponents of free speech. Thank you for considering my testimony.