

Anna Sipowicz

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 Anna Sipowicz. I am a graduate student at a university in Ohio. I strongly oppose SB 1 because of its distinctly harmful reforms on higher education in Ohio and their effects on my own learning and future practice.

I have a lot of hopes and dreams for my future. I'm in the first year of a PhD program studying school psychology, a field that supports school-aged children through all facets of social, emotional, behavioral, and academic development. The field of school psychology is governed by a couple different national organizations, namely the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) and the American Psychological Association (APA). These organizations are for leaders at the forefront of our field, and they offer a series of guiding principles and ethical considerations, as presented by NASP<sup>1</sup> and APA.<sup>2</sup> This choice to ban vaguely described 'controversial topics' of diversity, equity, and inclusion, does not protect the children of Ohio. It is antithetical to the practical and ethical codes of both NASP and APA.

In preparing to attend graduate school, I looked at institutions across the country and was careful to pick one that was a strong academic institution preparing professionals who are leaders in the field, in research, practice, and training, and this led me to choose a large university in Ohio—a powerhouse state in the field with both NASP and APA accreditation.<sup>3</sup>

The competitive nature of my program would be limited by the changes proposed in this bill, and all of Ohio's universities would lose their strength and position as training grounds for leaders in the professional and academic fields. Our faculty, our research, and our ability to discuss issues that impact students in Ohio and worldwide are essential to our ability to learn and grow.

Diversity, equity, and inclusion mean that we are able to ensure everyone has a seat at the table. Chairman, and members of the committee – you have invited us here in order to include our voices, as you have done for all Ohio residents. Students and faculty alike require language in order to describe and make sense of their experiences in the world around them.

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

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

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<sup>1</sup> NASP Professional Standards can be found here: <https://www.nasponline.org/standards-and-certification/professional-ethics>.

<sup>2</sup> APA Ethical Principles and Code of Conduct can be found here: <https://www.apa.org/ethics/code>

<sup>3</sup> Ohio School Psychologists Association, History of School Psychology in Ohio: <https://www.ospaonline.org/index.php/members/tosp/1362-history-of-school-psychology-in-ohio>.