

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 Dr. Lucas Beaufore. I am physicist working at The Ohio State University, writing in as a private citizen of Ohio. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

I do not think it is the role of the state government to regulate what “controversial beliefs” can be taught in university classrooms. It is a very broadly and vaguely defined set of topics, and even in the world of Physics. There are many theories in physics that are well accepted by the community but are controversial to some. Even the basics of quantum mechanics are controversial to some today, but to avoid the topic would completely hamstring the department’s ability to teach. I cannot imagine how difficult it would be to teach a history course in today’s environment with such a restriction considered.

Changing the structure of tenure would, I assure you, greatly hamper the university's ability to recruit top talent to Ohio, robbing the state of great researchers and teachers.

Requiring contact information for all lectures to be publicly available alongside a full syllabus will invite harassment of teachers from people who have no stake in Ohio, Ohio’s universities, or its students. We all understand that will be the outcome, intentional or not.

I was born in Ohio, I grew up here, I graduated from The Ohio State University and I work as a researcher in Ohio now. I know what a wonderful place Ohio can be for learning and teaching. But, SB 6 and HB 6 make me doubtful this will continue into the future.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this extremely ill-advised bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Dr. Lucas Beaufore