

Testimony of Javier Jasso, PhD, CCC-SLP
Before the Senate Higher Education Committee
Senator Kristina Roegner, Chair
February 6, 2025

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Ingram, and Members of the Higher Education Committee:

My name is Javier Jasso, and I am an Assistant Professor at The Ohio State University and taxpayer of Franklin County. I do not represent The Ohio State University but rather am submitting testimony as a private citizen. I oppose this bill because of the harm it will have on our state's economy for years to come, as well as its political agenda.

I oppose Senate Bill 1 because of its harmful effects on Ohio's economy. Universities across the state play an essential role in preparing Ohioans for an increasingly competitive workforce. SB 1 directly undermines the ability of government employees to manage strong institutions that generate significant economic benefits for the state. The undue burden on researchers will also result in less federal funded grants, which is crucial to maintain top research universities. By making it harder to attract top talent and effectively causing a brain drain across the state's top institutions to other states, this bill will damage Ohio's economy.

I also oppose Senate Bill 1 because as it is currently written, it has a political agenda that will effectively silence voices, not promote diversity of thought as it purports. SB 1 will mandate curriculum and infringe on university employees' freedom of speech. Although framed as promoting diversity of thought, a reading of the bill reveals that it is anti-intellectual and anti-scientific.

I urge you to oppose SB 1 and protect our shared economic future and ensure scientific innovation.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.