

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 Brooke Boling. I am a doctoral candidate at the University of Cincinnati. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

In describing the role of fascism in education during Adolf Hitler's rise to power, the Nation magazine describes "an education system that emphasizes national greatness and subtly or explicitly some version of national purity," which then lays "the basis for fascism's most powerful political trope: Great Replacement Theory, which claims that an internal enemy is trying to destroy the nation from within by importing people to "replace" the nation's defining national group." SB 1 is entirely informed by this fascist theory as it attempts to impose authoritarian principles on higher education and remove the possibility for critical inquiry by students or professors.

Let me ensure I am not mincing words: SB1 and its sponsors are attempting to impose fascist principles and ideology in Ohio. I will again cite the Nation article here, which argues that "Fascism survives off myths that create an out-group, who are relegated to, at best, second-class citizens. Schools and universities allow for critical inquiry into these myths, and so attacks on them are always the canaries in the coal mine of authoritarianism." Does this description sound familiar? It should, as it is the rhetoric that SB 1 relies upon.

SB 1 is a fascist authoritarian attempt to seize control of places of higher learning. It has been spoken against by a myriad of Ohio educators in every form it has taken, to no avail, because SB 1 and its sponsors do not care about Ohio education. They are much more interested in their far-right agenda to impose authoritarian rule in Ohio and in America. Authoritarianism of this ilk will not be tolerated by educators, Ohioans, or Americans.

SB 1 supporters and sponsors are on the wrong side of history, and that is why I ask that you vote NO on this extremist authoritarian bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

<https://www.thenation.com/article/society/fascist-education/>