

Chairman, members of the committee, my name is Victoria Druley, and I am the proud mother of four children currently attending public schools in the Medina City School District. As a mother and dedicated volunteer for our district, I am testifying today in opposition to Senate Bill 1 because it poses a significant threat to the future of education in Ohio, both for my children and for future generations.

As a mother, my greatest priority is ensuring that my children receive the best education possible, one that prepares them to think critically, engage with diverse perspectives, and develop into informed, compassionate members of our society. This bill's attempt to impose political oversight over what can and cannot be taught undermines the educational independence of our institutions, including both our K-12 public schools and universities.

The elimination of diversity, equity, and inclusion programs would send the wrong message that Ohio does not value inclusion, equal opportunity, or the enrichment that comes from learning about the world around us. Additionally, by limiting the rights of educators and faculty to engage in collective bargaining, this bill risks destabilizing our education system and making it harder to recruit and retain the talented educators my children and others deserve.

I want Ohio to remain a place where my children and all students have the opportunity to thrive, grow, and become the next generation of leaders and innovators. This bill threatens those opportunities. I urge you to vote against Senate Bill 1 and protect the integrity of education in our state. Thank you.