

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 Andrew Pardi. I have earned an Associates, a Bachelor's Degree, and a Master's Degree in Social Work through the University of Cincinnati. My higher education experience was greatly improved by my exposure to diverse people through language learning and study abroad as well as classes that gave me greater understanding of concepts such as equity and inclusion. I have seen zero evidence demonstrating how SB1 and its companion bill HB 6 would make our schools or world better for anyone or even what "problem" these bills are supposed to help.

These bills do absolutely nothing to improve access to, outcomes of, or experience of higher education for students. They are an explicit attack on educators to limit their ability to engage students in critical thinking to have a more well-rounded understanding of the world and the people in it. They are an unreasonable and over the top response to a nonsensical culture war against the most basic concepts of diversity, equity, and inclusion – all of which are essential to a more educated, productive, and peaceful world. It is a disgrace that elected lawmakers are spending their time and our tax dollars generating useless laws and regulations that do not improve anyone's life or the use of education as a resource in any way whatsoever. I implore you, please vote no on these bills and stand up to the absurd notion that being a diverse, equitable, and inclusive population is somehow a bad thing.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

Sincerely,

Andrew Pardi