

Chairman, members of the committee, my name is Amanda Kittel, and I have been a student of Ohio universities since 2019. I am testifying on behalf of myself as a student and citizen of Ohio in opposition to Senate Bill 1, as it is a blatant attack on the higher education system of Ohio, both for students and educators.

The proposed legislation of Ohio Senate Bill 1 does nothing to address actual issues and concerns of Ohio educators and students of the State. Diversity, equity, and inclusion does far more for educators and students than what has been stigmatized. By including these DEI provisions, students from all backgrounds and abilities can receive access to higher education. DEI provides that students with disabilities receive equitable treatment in their learning environment. It assures that students coming from historically impoverished areas, like Appalachia, have a chance to further their education.

Senate Bill 1 proposes the risk of private information being released to the public, most notably, all information on a course instructor's syllabus being accessed by any member of the public, which typically include phone numbers of the professors themselves or of their teaching assistants. This type of information should only be accessible by students of the course, not widely available for anybody to access.

In general, the enactment of Senate Bill 1 would greatly reduce the quality of education of Ohio's universities. Educators' personal beliefs and knowledge on so-called controversial subjects provide students with a greater understanding and exposure to issues of the modern world, and not educators to share their knowledge pertaining to subjects like those listed in Senate Bill 1, such as foreign policy and climate policies, would be a severe hinderance on students' learning, especially students who are pursuing areas of study that concern subject matter such as those.

Senate Bill 1 is nothing more than a repackaged version of Senate Bill 83, which failed by the will and voices of the Ohio people. Ohioans do not want this type of legislation enacted. Please protect the integrity and value of education in the state of Ohio by voting against Senate Bill 1.