

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 Jacqueline Peck. I am a community leader and am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6. For years I have been actively committed to efforts that protect Ohio's higher education system. I have engaged as a public school teacher, a parent, and a community leader. Last year, I was proud to be among the many Ohioans who stood up against Senate Bill 83 and helped ensure its defeat. Today, I am here to once again urge you to reject Senate Bill 1, which attempts to resurrect the same flawed policies.

The defeat of Senate Bill 83 was not an accident. It was the result of widespread opposition from students, educators, business leaders, and community members who saw it for what it was: a dangerous attack on academic freedom and diversity. This bill is no different. It still imposes unnecessary restrictions on faculty, still seeks to eliminate programs that support student success—programs in which I have taught and seen students succeed— and still tries to micromanage what can and cannot be discussed in college classrooms. The people of Ohio rejected these harmful policies once, and they will reject them again.

Legislators should be working to improve education in Ohio, not trying to reclothe and force through a bill that has already failed. The public has spoken, and I urge you to listen to them by voting against Senate Bill 1.