

February 10, 2025

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Senate Higher Education Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify. My name is Christie Lukejord and I have been employed within higher education for my career but write to you as a private citizen. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion are not just a few buzz words that are publicized in the media. It is a core value of higher education, to make education accessible and inclusive for all people regardless of race, sex, gender ideology, physical abilities or disabilities, etc. This means that by upholding our Diversity, Equity, and inclusion policies, our educational spaces are available to everyone. To ask faculty, staff, and administrators to remove these practices in their protocols and teaching will hurt those that are the most vulnerable. We must keep these practices in place and look ahead to the future landscape of higher education, one of which includes all people.

I ask that you consider my testimony and vote NO on this discriminatory bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Christie Lukejord