

10 February 2025

Opposing Testimony to Senate Bill 1:

I thank Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Ingram, and Members of the Senate Education Committee for the opportunity to provide testimony opposing Senate Bill 1. My name is Amanda Ash, and I am a PhD student at the Ohio State University.

Senate Bill 1 is a clear attempt by the Ohio legislative body to censor higher education and promote the beliefs of the legislative body. Academic institutions thrive on a range of ideas which Senate Bill 1 will destroy. "Controversial Ideas" as you have defined them cannot be separated from education. The faculty, graduate students, and student body which constitute these institutions come from different world views defined by experiences that you have deemed "controversial". Littered throughout the bill is clear indications of the biases and fears of the legislators. If this bill is enacted, *You*, the Ohio legislative body, will have elected to go a witch hunt. *You* will have decided that ideas and initiatives which promote voices that are not your own are dangerous and must be stamped out because it threatens *your* world view. This does nothing to support the development of students at these institutions. Rather, it stifles the students' ability to analyze arguments as Senate Bill 1 will only allow one side of the argument to be given. I ask the legislators to reflect on two questions: Why are you so afraid of these ideas? And if these ideas are so dangerous, do you trust your constituents so little as to not be able to determine this on their own accord?

I fear the impacts that Senate Bill 1 will have on student development and the future of higher education. I implore you to vote no on Senate Bill 1.

Thank you.