

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 Gavin Andersen. I am 37, soon to be a licensed attorney in Cleveland, entering practice in international trade law after about a decade as a trade compliance analyst and consultant. I have an MA in Trade, Investment, and Development Policy, an MBA, and a customs broker license from Customs and Border Protection. I worked for several years before that as a Spanish interpreter on farms in the Salinas Valley in California. I come from a Reagan-loving farming family in south-central Nebraska and was raised in a Trump-voting agricultural community in central Minnesota, but I do not love Reagan and I did not vote for Trump.

I grew up on the fear and faith that power SB 1 and HB 6: fear of the impure and faith in the protection of righteous leaders. To some people from my past, the type that would support these bills, I went into college innocent and came out corrupt. The communist propaganda that passed for my college's curriculum, and the godless professors that rammed it down my throat, had merged my DNA with Nancy Pelosi's and Hilary Clinton's and Elizabeth Warren's and Michelle Obama's, melding my once-wholesome individuality with the hive-mind of the urban elite. What these people from my past don't realize, or refuse to accept, is that I have always been as I am. I was already intolerant of their fear- and power-based anti-intellectualism, now masquerading as "intellectual diversity" under SB 1 and HB 6, when I left for college. It is, in fact, precisely why I left for college. The repression of impure ideas by righteous leaders in my community, people like Jerry Cirino and the rest of the sponsors, is what radicalized me. Higher education was a refuge from a world of social and political abuse.

My wife brought me to Ohio in 2016. We have two kids and plan to raise them here. I love the community we live in, but this state's politics sicken me. SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6 sicken me. I don't expect to convince anyone here of anything, but proponents in government: You are shitting the bed. You are doing it on purpose, and we all see you doing it. You sicken all of us.

This bill is disrespectful of everything good and noble that Americans have ever fought for. It is disrespectful of human rights, human dignity, and the human mind. I ask you to consider my testimony, do your part in upholding the democracy we all grow up thinking we live in, and vote NO on this fascist bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.