

Testimony of Carlye Mahler
Before the Senate Higher Education Committee
Senator Kristina Roegner, Chair
February 10th, 2025

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Ingram, and Members of the Higher Education Committee:

My name is Carlye Mahler, and I am a current PhD student of History at the Ohio State University. I do not represent OSU but rather am submitting testimony as a private citizen in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am a Florida native who actively chose not to live and work in the state of Florida largely due to the similar legal provisions which have been passed in the state of Florida. I know that no matter the specific language of a bill, it will always go further than what is technically banned because it instills fear in individual instructors and institutions. I would have loved to stay in my home state to continue my studies, but as a historian interested in women's history who graduated with a minor in Gender Studies I instead chose to come to the state of Ohio.

As an educator I know that the language of this bill will prevent me from doing my job correctly and will lead to young people receiving inadequate understanding and a highly flawed understanding of the world that they live in.

My peers, my mentors and I, are in opposition to Senate Bill 1. We aren't the only people this would affect. You would be stifling all future generations of Ohioans—anyone who would need to become a student. Senate Bill 1 does a disservice—and actively harms—not just all educators, but all students that Ohio has and will have. If this bill had been passed when I was looking at graduate schools I would have never applied to come to Ohio, and I know future generations of scholars will make the decision to not apply to states with these laws, I have already seen it happen in Florida.

I urge you to oppose Senate Bill 1 for the sake of these future students and the institutions who want to attract these competitive researchers to come live and work in Ohio.