

Hi, my name is Gigi Bix. I am a student at Ohio State University. I am speaking on behalf of myself, and no other business or entity.

I serve as the president of Students for Better Schools and Futures, a student-led education policy organization. I am deeply committed to ensuring that all students in Ohio receive an equitable, high-quality education. I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 1.

Senate Bill 1 threatens to remove Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion from the classroom. Some of my favorite classes that I have taken during my time as an undergraduate include: Equity, Justice, and Public Service; Music and Social Justice; and Public Service and Civic Engagement. Each course has taught me that public servants have a duty to uphold: fostering a community where everyone feels valued and respected. Knowing our rich, yet flawed, history as civilization allows us to have more empathy for ourselves and others.

My roommate, someone who is a dear friend to me, is able to go to Ohio State because of her scholarship. This wouldn't be possible without DEI. Our education systems face many challenges, from declining literacy rates to limited access in underserved areas. This bill moves us backwards. It moves us away from accountability, limiting students to meeting their full potential. Students, families, and educators deserve more from a system that is meant to serve them, and reflect their voices.

I urge you to reject Senate Bill 1 for these reasons, and hope you uphold democracy for its intended purpose: to serve the constituents.