

Members of the Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony. My name is Sophie Ballah, and I am a first-year law student at the University of Cincinnati. I am a product of public schools and universities and believe very strongly in the importance of free and fair higher education. Because of this, I am strongly opposed to Senate Bill 1.

The changes proposed in this bill will be detrimental to the social and economic well-being of our state. If this bill is passed, Ohio will lose many potential students and faculty who contribute to the intellectual and economic health of the state. Top-tier faculty will not come to institutions where they do not feel protected and supported in their work and the quality of education will decline. Furthermore, out-of-state students will not make the costly trek to Ohio universities if they do not feel they will receive a quality education. This will cost the Ohio economy an exponential amount of money – money that could have come not only from missed educational costs but also from those who would be likely to stay and work after college. If Ohio wants to be a national competitor when it comes not only to education but industry, quality of life, and economic viability then state legislators cannot pass this bill.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this bill that is harmful and dangerous to our society.

Thank you.