

Members of the committee,

My name is Hailey Bishop and I am a first year student at the College of Law at the University of Cincinnati and I strongly oppose Senate Bill 1.

In every class I have been in, the same principal has underlined every discussion, every lesson and every idea; the ability to speak freely and engage in open discourse with my professors and peers. Because of our first amendment right to free speech in public schools, I have learned things about a variety of viewpoints, and have even had my mind changed by classmates who I thought I would never agree with. That wouldn't have happened if we hadn't been able to speak openly and freely about hard topics. Some of these conversations were uncomfortable at times, but there is no change without a little discomfort. A bill that does what SB1 says it will do is dangerous and, whether it is the intention or not, will lead to a chilled educational experience.

I am an out of state student, and I chose this university because of the way the state of Ohio stood behind its teachers, staff and students. I felt supported all of the years that I have attended school here, and this bill has threatened the security I had attending this school. If this bill passes, I plan on transferring back home to the University of Louisville College of Law, in order to continue my education in an environment where we can openly discuss any topic that we feel is important, and can hear any viewpoint on the topic that may be present.

My professors are strong leaders, compassionate humans, and above all, excellent teachers. A bill that limits their ability to speak up for themselves and the things that are important to them takes away so much of what I have valued in my educational journey.

Please listen to my testimony, and the testimonies of my peers, and vote NO on this dangerous bill. Thank you for allowing me to testify.