

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 Carrie Strayer Sibila. I am a Retired Accountant and CPA and a proud Miami University of Ohio graduate. I strongly oppose SB 1 and its companion bill, HB 6.

I am deeply concerned about the government's overreach into our higher-level learning spaces. SB 1 increases political control over universities by restricting the exchange of diverse perspectives and censoring historically marginalized voices. When we ban diversity programs and require ideological conformity, we encourage an environment of fear and oppression. We have seen this playbook in totalitarian and communist regimes throughout history and still today.

As a result of politically controlled higher learning institutions, Ohio will see a drop in faculty, staff, and student recruitment and retention, stifling innovation and creativity. A 2023 American Association of University Professors (AAUP) survey found that 67% of faculty members are less likely to work in states that interfere with academic freedom through political mandates. The National Center for Education Statistics found that states with higher education policies (Florida and Texas) saw a 9% decrease in out-of-state student applications, which may result in millions of lost tuition revenue. This does not bode well when Ohio's population is expected to decrease by 5.7% by 2050 (Ohio Department of Development).

We don't need more bureaucratic expansion. It causes more red tape. HB999 in Florida increased administrative costs by \$60 million annually (Florida Board of Governors, 2023). I can think of a lot more dire needs in our state to spend that money.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this extremist bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Carrie S. Sibila 2/10/25