

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 Rob Claassen. I am a Columbus resident, a PhD student in Ohio, and I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

As a graduate student in an Ohio university, I have concerns that this bill has the potential to cause irreparable damage to institutions that allow me, and other researchers, to efficiently conduct their work. This concern is due to the substantial limitations that SB-1 places on both curriculum and dialogue that can happen within classrooms surrounding “controversial topics” as well as the limitations on freedom for faculty to exercise a diversity of opinions inside and outside of the classroom.

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

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.