

Charman Roegner, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Senate Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Emily Koivu and I am a Columbus, Ohio resident. Currently, I am a PhD student in the state of Ohio, and I am strongly opposed to SB-1 and its companion bill HB 6.

As a student and researcher, this bill would dramatically hinder the functioning of colleges across the state. The harmful initiatives in this bill will provide unnecessary red tape in classrooms, include damaging curriculum requirements, and would have a dire impact on research initiatives here. Legislation such as SB-1 would be catastrophic to our standing as world class educators and researchers.

Further, the derisive language and intentionally bigoted actions in this bill are shameful and poorly constructed. Students, faculty, staff and all members of higher education spaces deserve to be treated as human beings and not feel attacked in their institutions by the very legislators sworn to act in their constituents' best interests. This bill would introduce acts that erase freedom of expression and diverse thought that is protected in our US constitution, and aims to create a single-view classroom, and a homogeneous body. Ohio learning institutions deserve better than this limited perspective, and Ohio community members deserve a government that acts with dignity and grace rather than hate.

I ask that you consider my testimony, and vote NO on this discriminatory bill. Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony.