

TO: Ohio Senate Higher Education Committee

FROM: Andrew Barnes, Hudson, OH

DATE: February 9, 2025

SUBJECT: Ohio Senate Bill 1 (opposed)

Members of the Committee:

I write to express my opposition to Ohio Senate Bill 1. The bill seems to be written to address imagined problems that don't actually exist, and its proposed reforms take the form of intrusive micromanagement that we know is antithetical to innovation and growth in any part of society.

Imagined problems: Overall, the bill seems based on the proposition that Ohio universities are hotbeds of indoctrination and discrimination, but that is simply not true. I don't know where folks have gotten the wrong idea, but universities are not forcing people to renounce their religions, pledge their commitment to certain worldviews, denigrate entire races or genders, or anything else of that nature. The bill reads as if the movie "God's Not Dead" is an accurate reflection of what happens in college, and it just isn't.

Micromanagement as an approach: Republicans and other conservatives have long known that micromanagement is a poor tool for encouraging innovation and growth. And yet, this bill employs just that tool in several different aspects of higher education. It creates a civics course everyone must teach. It creates numerous new hoops for university personnel to jump through. It makes demands regarding website structure. Overall, these virtually innumerable new requirements will grind meaningful work at our colleges and universities to a halt.

Higher education in Ohio remains the envy of the world. Let's keep it that way by rejecting the allure of micromanagement that solves no existing problems and creates many new ones.

Many thanks for your service to the people of Ohio,
Andrew Barnes
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