

Office of the Chair, Higher Education Committee
Senator Kristina D. Roegner, Chair, SB 1 co-sponsor
Senator Jerry C. Cirino, Vice Chair, SB 1 primary sponsor
Senator Kyle Koehler, Member, SB 1 co-sponsor
Senator Bill Reineke, Member, SB 1 co-sponsor

February 7, 2025

Written testimony opposing the proposed Senate Bill 1

I am a physician licensed by the State Medical Board of Ohio set to complete my General Surgery residency next year, and currently applying for fellowships in Surgical Critical Care. I am outraged by this proposed bill for many reasons, and I see it as a part of a greater movement nationwide of rising fascism. It is clearly a small part of a larger, aggressive, effort to disenfranchise everyone who is not a wealthy white Christian heterosexual man. To be specific, and brutally clear, here is a brief and non-exhaustive list of some of the HORRENDOUS content of this bill:

- Ban on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training
- Authoritarian "syllabus" oversight
- Prohibiting censure of white supremacy/racism/bigotry
- The assertion that college campuses are not currently "intellectually diverse", and the greater implication that hatred/bigotry/white supremacy/ethnocentrism is valuable and will be required to be taught as a viable "alternate opinion"
- Prohibition of institutions taking stances against hate, or for human rights
- Prohibiting boycotts, disinvestments, or sanctions
- Banning of affirmative action
- Anti-Chinese rhetoric
- Prohibiting strikes, and otherwise hindering collective bargaining/weakening unions/labor rights
- Promoting the asinine concept touted by reactionary hate groups of "white racism" and claiming things like "white men shouldn't have to be made uncomfortable by hearing about how bad we are".

In summary, I oppose this proposed bill as loudly and vehemently as possible, and I believe majority of Ohioans would agree. Even if you yourself are truly at your core a white supremacist and see no fault in oppressing and persecuting marginalized peoples such as those who identify as BIPOC or LGBTQ+, you must realize practically that bills like this nationwide are contributing to a greater "brain drain" in the "reddest"/right-wing states. Increasingly, people with the means to flee for greener pastures in more reasonable/developed/democratic states are taking the opportunity to do so. Ill-intentioned, authoritarian, and reactionary bills like this proposed SB 1 will drive out the young, educated, hardworking electorate that Ohio needs to thrive. Although I am a white heterosexual man, I am also Jewish and I have patients, friends, family, and loved ones who would be directly and indirectly harmed by this legislation. As such, I regretfully cannot see myself remaining in Ohio if the state government continues to attack its citizens.

Sincerely,



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CC:

Senator Catherine D. Ingram, Higher Education Committee Ranking Member
Senator Case Weinstein, Higher Education Committee Member
Senator Jane M. Timken, Higher Education Committee Member
Governor Mike DeWine