

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 Tiffany Chin and I am mental health counselor and staff member at the University of Cincinnati. I have been at the University for nearly 14 years and watched the evolution of students, faculty, staff and the campus environment. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

I have worked in various roles at the university and have witnessed first-hand the positive and long-lasting impacts of diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives on students, faculty and staff. Students and community members have expressed a sense of belonging, care, deep understanding about the world and themselves through these initiatives. I have also witnessed in real time, that when individuals are properly educated on what diversity, equity and inclusion truly aims to do – asking us who is in the room, who is trying to get in the room but cannot, and if everyone in the room feels they belong and are respected for who they are – this is where deep humility and connectedness happens.

I could go on and on about the impacts of DE&I efforts and my perception of the human experience as a licensed clinician. Though, what I want to convey more than anything is that these programs have changed lives, as evidenced by qualitative data collected by our institution and my nearly 14 years in higher education. SB 1 would foundationally threaten higher education by taking away freedom of speech, student opportunities, tuition dollars and countless jobs; the lives of those in higher education will be harmed in ways that will ripple out for years to come. I am terrified that this bill will be the death of higher education and freedom of speech. This bill is destructive and is not what our country stands for.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this extremist, chaos-causing, discriminatory and misleading bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Tiffany Chin, MA, LPC

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T. Chin', with a long horizontal line extending to the left.