

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 Liana Block. I graduated from Kent State University in 2011, am married to a graduate of The Ohio State University, and have two kids who hope to go to college in Ohio in the future. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

Ohio's public universities significantly impact our state's economy. According to a study commissioned by the Inter-University Council of Ohio, "Ohio's 14 public universities delivered \$68.9 billion in total economic impact in FY 2021-2022...That impact represents 8.8% of Ohio's total gross state product. The study also found that activities of the public universities and their students support 866,782 jobs – one in eight Ohio jobs."

According to the Ohio Department of Higher Education, 444,014 students were enrolled in Ohio's public universities in Fall 2024. These students have already chosen to invest their time and money in these institutions as they are. The government interference prescribed in SB 1 is unnecessary and unwelcome, and this attack on academic freedom will scare current and prospective students away.

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

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.