

Testimony Against SB 1/HB 6: The Higher Education Destruction Act

By Sandi Carroll – Stay-at-Home Mother and Higher Education Advocate
Ohio State Legislative Committee, 2/11/2025

Chairperson, Vice Chair, Ranking Member, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony today. My name is Sandi Carroll, and I am a stay-at-home mother in Ohio, where I care for my elderly mother and children. I am here today because I am deeply concerned about the harm that SB 1/HB 6 would cause to our higher education system. As the mother of a daughter currently majoring in Psychology and Addiction Studies at a public university, I see firsthand how education transforms lives. This bill jeopardizes that transformation for my daughter and thousands of other students across Ohio.

SB 1/HB 6 is being pushed forward despite serious objections from higher education stakeholders and overwhelming public opposition. It is clear that our state legislators are not listening to the people of Ohio. What Ohio students and families need is real support—affordable tuition, access to quality education, and robust academic programs—not political overreach that undermines education.

These bills are the epitome of big government interference. They would impose excessive micromanagement and political dictates on colleges and universities, stifling the independence that has always allowed them to thrive. Ohio already has safeguards in place to maintain academic integrity and fiscal accountability—these additional mandates are unnecessary and harmful.

SB 1/HB 6's contradictions are glaring. They claim to promote “intellectual diversity,” yet they would control how professors address topics and manage their classrooms. This is a direct assault on academic freedom and the First Amendment. My daughter deserves to learn from experts who are free to teach without being censored by partisan agendas. Students don't want education dictated by politicians—they want knowledge shaped by research and experience.

This bill also attacks tenure by making it virtually meaningless, allowing administrators to call for post-tenure reviews at any time. This will deter the brightest faculty from working in Ohio. Talented professors are already hard to retain, and this bill would make it nearly impossible. If Ohio loses its best educators, students like my daughter will suffer from a diminished learning experience, with fewer opportunities for mentorship and innovation.

Additionally, SB 1/HB 6 contains over 25 areas of regulation, creating excessive mandates that would pull resources away from students and toward administrative busywork. Unfunded mandates raise costs without providing any real benefit to students or their education. My daughter—and all students—deserve classrooms and labs focused on learning, not burdened by bureaucratic paperwork.

The bill also targets workers' rights by undermining collective bargaining and restricting faculty members' ability to advocate for better working conditions. As a mother, I understand that when faculty working conditions deteriorate, so do students' learning environments. We need strong, supported educators to ensure that students can succeed.

Finally, this bill ignores the real problems facing higher education. My family, like so many others, is concerned about rising tuition, student loan debt, and whether my daughter will be able to complete her

program without financial strain. SB 1/HB 6 doesn't address these issues. Instead, it diverts attention from solving them and creates new barriers to student success.

I urge you to listen to Ohio families like mine and reject SB 1/HB 6. We need policies that support students, protect faculty, and ensure that Ohio's higher education system remains a place of opportunity and innovation—not a victim of political interference. Please don't let this bill damage the future of higher education in Ohio.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Sandi Carroll
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