

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 Kaly Hamski and I am a life-long Ohio resident who has had the privilege of learning at and earning a degree from one of our state's colleges, Kent State University. I write today as a concerned citizen who places high value in Ohio's educators and its future, to oppose Senate Bill 1 and its companion bill House Bill 6.

My main concerns include:

-The exclusion of any "controversial belief or policy" will prevent educators from accurately teaching historical events and raising awareness of critical issues within our society. Furthermore, the rule that students must come to their own conclusions about some of these matters may prevent educators from correcting inaccurate statements etc. in tests, essays etc.

-The prohibition of DEI will deteriorate conditions for people with disabilities, will foster discrimination, harassment and practices that are not received equally to all students and educators. It is my concern that this will negatively affect the opportunity to learn and teach in a safe and fair environment enhanced by diverse ideas, views and discussion. This may also cause student organizations that focus on the success of certain groups/communities to be disbanded and may discourage or ban materials that focus on understanding the history and culture of certain groups/communities.

-The chance that funding will be withheld due to differing views on whether a "controversial belief or policy" is involved in a matter.

-The risk that faculty that have earned and continue to deserve tenure will have it withdrawn without sufficient reason; and that Ohio will lose top tier professors to states that offer tenure.

-Students may be left without classes or programs needed for their chosen field due to retrenchment policies.

-Faculty and staff are no longer legally protected as they lose their right to strike if they disagree with any of their employer's policies.

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

Thank you again, I appreciate your time,

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Kaly Hamski