

**Opponent Testimony for SB1 Senate Higher
Education Committee
2/11/2025**

**Brendan Boettler
Ohio Resident**

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Higher Education Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Brendan Boettler. I am a resident of Northeast Ohio who has achieved a successful middle class life based in large part on the education I received as a lifelong student of Ohio schools. I am submitting this written testimony in opposition of SB1 in its entirety.

Early in my career I encountered a disadvantage in the form of leaving Ohio schools with a worldview that was more narrow than the peers I encountered while starting my career in New York City. I found myself competing against young professionals with broader perspectives and understanding of American society. The advantage these professionals had over me was they could more easily understand people and meet them where they are, resulting in stronger collaborations and connections. Hiring managers, investors, and customers will always choose the person they are most able to connect to.

Since returning to Ohio and having overcome these early career struggles I am pleased to see today's students are being equipped with the advantage of global perspectives. Our students leave school prepared and ready to engage all sectors of the American and global economy. The issue I foresee with the passage of SB1 is eliminating this advantage. Instead of diverse and robust debates, classrooms will be artificially forced to adopt more narrow curriculum, which will leave our young professionals unprepared to become successful members of our society.

As a concerned resident with firsthand experience of entering the American workforce after graduating Ohio schools I ask that you please consider my testimony and vote no on SB1 to ensure Ohio schools afford our students every advantage to compete in today's workforce.

Thank you. I'm happy to answer any questions.

Brendan Boettler