

STATEMENT OF MARCELLA SPANN
IN OPPOSITION TO/SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 1

Before the Senate Higher Education Committee
Representative Kristina D. Roeger, Chair

Chairwoman Roeger, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Ingram and members of the Senate Higher Education Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to present opponent/proponent testimony in regard to the proposed Senate Bill 1: the Advance Ohio Higher Education Act.”

Introduction

My name is Marcella Spann and I am a graduate student at Bowling Green State University. I rise to speak today on my own behalf and not as a representative of my university.

SB 1 is of interest to me because I’m currently pursuing my masters’ degree in College Student Personnel, and I directly advise students who are going to be affected by Senate Bill 1. Before I arrived at BGSU, I grew up in Northeast Ohio and attended undergrad at the University of Mount Union in Alliance, Ohio. After I graduate with my master’s degree this May, I plan on continuing my work in the field of student affairs at a university, preferably located in the great state of Ohio.

I say this because even though I may look young and feel like I don’t belong in this room, I have substantial experience in the university setting being a college student and helping other students grow into impactful Ohio constituents. After reading Ohio Senate Bill 1, I feel that there are concerning implications for those who work and choose to utilize the Ohio public higher education system.

I highlight the numerous unfunded mandates applied into SB1 on numerous aspects of the college experience such as trustee training (pgs. 2-4), institutional response

to complaints about controversial beliefs or policies (pgs. 21-24), institutional response to interference with intellectual diversity rights (pgs. 24-27), institutional response to complaints about diversity statements in the hiring process (pg. 25), making information about speakers on campus by no more than three clicks (pgs. 25-26), general chancellor & reporting requirements to the state (pgs. 27-28), and submission of biennial budget and spending costs (pgs. 40-41). Unless there is a sophisticated way the people of this committee are using their own large paychecks, this will cost the taxpayers thousands of their dollars into unneeded monitoring of the Ohio public higher education system.

I think most of the proponents against and for this bill can agree that the real issue of higher education is the insane cost of tuition for students. It baffles me that college affordability is not being addressed whatsoever in this proposed SB1. In a more ideal scenario, there could've been real change for college affordability that could impact all constituents; but instead, we all revert to privileging one party's ideology over another and most likely oppressing the millions you represent in government. Please consider some of these financial implications for the workers of tomorrow and revise these unfunded mandate clauses of SB1.

Thank you,

Marcella Spann

Graduate Student of Bowling Green State University