

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 Maxine Irvin. I am a lifelong resident of the State of Ohio. I graduated from Kent State University and Ashland University. I also attended Hiram College and Columbus State Community College. I am strongly opposed to SB1 and its companion bill HB 6.

My daughter chose to attend Ohio State University because of its reputation as one of the best Universities in the Country for an Education Degree. If these bills pass, that will no longer be the case for future students. These bills will have a detrimental effect on free speech by banning controversial subjects and denying discourse on important topics. This is in violation of the Constitution. Open and honest discussions are vital for learning.

Regarding the Educators, banning collective bargaining, strikes, tenure, etc, would have a negative effect on worker rights and is would discourage current educators. I imagine the best teachers would leave Ohio as soon as they find a better position out of state that respects their abilities and treats them fairly. Finding quality replacement teachers would be difficult, because it would no longer be attractive to teach in Ohio. Students, who want a quality education, will have to attend colleges outside of Ohio, when they would prefer study in Ohio, but that would no longer be an option. The best and the brightest would be leaving Ohio, many to never return. This will create an undue hardship on Ohio families.

Loss of students means loss of revenue for Ohio Universities and for the state. It will have a cascading effect. We will lose the most creative people, and it will affect the businesses that support the colleges too. We will also have fewer qualified interns that supply local companies. If Senate Bill 1 passes, there will be a huge negative effect on Students, Teachers, the reputation of the Universities, and all businesses that support higher education.

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

Thanks you again for the opportunity to testify.

Regards,

Maxine Irvin