

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

Thank you for reading this testimony. My name is Laura Irvin. I am a constituent, former teacher, and small business owner in NE Ohio and I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

My experience educated me that we are a stronger state and country when we work together and include everyone and their ideas. DEI programs help ensure all students—especially marginalized communities feel safe and supported on campus. Removing them will harm students of color, LGBTQ+ students, and others who rely on these resources. This bill will tie the hands of our educators and the bill doesn't even define DEI!

I oppose Senate Bill 1 because it threatens academic freedom, diversity, and student rights in Ohio's universities

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

Thank you,
Laura Irvin
Lorain County, Ohio