

2.10.25

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 Lindsey Wyckoff. I am a marketing professional and school board member in North Canton. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

SB 1 eliminates Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) programs that 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

Academic freedom is critical. Universities should be led by educators and scholars, not controlled by political agendas. This bill gives the state too much power over what is taught in classrooms. It also jeopardizes free speech. Banning faculty strikes and limiting what professors can teach weakens our education system. Professors should not fear losing their jobs for discussing important social issues.

I urge you to oppose SB 1. This bill is harmful to students, faculty, and the integrity of higher education. Please stand for academic freedom and vote NO on SB 1.

Thank you for listening.

With gratitude,
Lindsey Wyckoff
North Canton, OH