

Senate Bill 1

Dr. Sean Whelan

Opponent Testimony

Senate Higher Education Committee

2/6/2025

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 Dr. Sean Whelan. I am Full-Time Faculty at Central Ohio Technical College with a Ph.D. in Rhetoric and composition from Ohio University and ten years of experience teaching at both four-year and two-year higher education institutions in Ohio. I strongly oppose SB 1.

As a veteran Ohio higher-education faculty member, I oppose these bills because their attempt at restricting what can and cannot be discussed in college classrooms fails to understand that limiting these topics will not promote a more diverse and effective learning environment, but quite the opposite. This bill shackles educators under the weight of kowtowing to government oversight and investigation through unduly burdensome annual reviews, discussion topic limitations, removing support for underserved minority students, and eliminating educators' ability to advocate for fair compensation and working conditions through collective bargaining.