

Senate Bill 1 Opponent Testimony

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 Lora Anderson. I am a professor in the English department at the University of Cincinnati where I have taught technical and professional writing for 15 years. I do not represent the University of Cincinnati. I am submitting testimony as a private citizen in opposition to Senate Bill (SB) 1.

Along with my general concern that SB 1 would cost the country students, professors, tuition dollars, and countless jobs, I have two particular concerns with the bill.

1. The section on controversial beliefs or policies defines a controversial belief or policy as “any belief or policy that is the subject of political controversy, including issues such as climate policies, electoral politics, foreign policy, diversity, equity, and inclusion programs, immigration policy, marriage, or abortion.”

My research is in medical communication, and I have seen that many times what may be considered a controversial belief can become a standard practice that leads to positive health outcomes. In diabetes care, for example, it was once a controversial belief that the patient should be an equal decision maker in diabetes management. Now, a shared decision model of practice is standard. In fact, a meta-analysis published in 2024 concluded a statistically significant reduction of glycated hemoglobin level (blood sugar) was observed among type 2 diabetes adult patients who participated in shared decision-making (DOI: [10.1371/journal.pone.0306296](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0306296)).

Not leaving a space for medical students and educators to engage with such “controversial beliefs” would potentially interfere with medical education and harm the 38.4 million people in the United States with diabetes as well as other people with chronic illnesses.

2. The Retrenchment & Tenure Policies in the bill also greatly concern me. As written, this provision would let colleges and universities terminate classes and programs without valid cause. For example, if just one student drops a class could be used to shut down an entire department. This action could lead to students suddenly left without the classes or programs they need to enter their chosen field. College gives students a place to grow and learn to be productive citizens. Don't take this opportunity from them.

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

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Lora Anderson