

Melissa S. Toms
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February 10, 2025

Higher Education Committee
The Ohio Senate
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, OH 43215

Committee Members:

I am writing in opposition to Senate Bill 1. It's a distraction from the real work that needs to be done to improve higher education in the State of Ohio.

We know the state has a difficult time attracting large companies because our workforce is under-educated. Less than 20% of Ohio's 25 years and older have a four-year degree. You should be focusing your efforts on making higher education more affordable in Ohio and more accessible to marginalized citizens. Our priorities should not be to start a culture war and further divide the have and have nots.

As a parent of a freshman attending an Ohio university, I also want to ensure her college isn't burdened by the administrative stranglehold this bill would have to adhere to a standardized review for tenure. It should be up to the university to decide how it manages its faculty, not government.

This is just another example of the Republicans in Ohio claiming they don't like big government, and yet, they sponsor and pass bills that create more bureaucracy and overreach. Ohio has become the Florida of the north. We are already losing our talented young people to other states. This bill would be just another reason for our children to leave.

Please do not let this bill leave the Committee. It's not good for Ohio or our youth.

Sincerely,

Melissa S. Toms

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