

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 David Coyle, and I live in Toledo. I am a former high school teacher of U.S. History and a proud graduate of the Mortiz College of Law at The Ohio State University. I have been in the private practice of law in Toledo since 1987. My spouse Denise worked tirelessly to help me get through law school, and the two of us worked very hard to put our four children through public universities in Ohio. Three of our children graduated from The Ohio State University, and one graduated from Bowling Green State University. (I won't mention the name of the school up North where my BGSU graduate earned a Master's degree).

I submit this testimony in strong opposition to the passage of SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

The point of attending college, or sending your children to college, is for the student to learn and grow and reach their highest potential by being academically challenged in a diverse environment. A person grows when they experience people with a wide range of backgrounds in an open, welcoming atmosphere. We all learn from each other's strengths, weaknesses, and differences.

You build the strongest universities by hiring the best teachers and researchers. You recruit those people by offering tenure and the ability to protect their professional future by joining a union. Ohio universities will not be able to draw the best teachers or researchers if the educators are concerned that they will not be able to earn tenure or that, once they have earned tenure, it can be easily taken away from them. The best educators will go to the schools where they are allowed to teach truthful, complete, and accurate information and where they feel their job is secure.

You do not get the best teachers by restricting the right of professors to teach controversial subjects or present truthful and accurate information. You do not get the best teachers by requiring professors to allow students to spout inaccurate and false information in the classroom while prohibiting the educators from correcting them.

If SB 1 becomes law in Ohio, the best educators will choose to work at other universities in other states, and the best potential students, and their parents, will prioritize the schools where the best teachers and researchers are working. The passage of SB 1 will cause public universities in Ohio to be weakened, which will hurt all of Ohio.

The Ohio legislature should take steps to make Ohio public universities academically strong and the envy of universities in other states. Passage of SB 1 will do the opposite. Universities in Ohio are currently able to compete in attracting the best teachers and researchers but, if SB 1 becomes law, the best educators will choose instead to work where they are free to strive for academic excellence without fear of losing their job. And I assure you that the best students, and the parents of the best students, will seek out universities in

other states where the students can obtain the best education in an open atmosphere of academic excellence that has a wide range of accurate and complete academic programs.

I urge you to vote no on SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Sincerely,



David J. Coyle

Toledo, Ohio