

February 7, 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 Wenda Sheard. I am an attorney with a PhD in political science focusing on education policy. I taught part-time at Ohio University for 12 years, and taught high school and middle school students for 8 years.

I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6. The bills' sponsors' apparent purpose of allowing academic freedom sounds good, but the bills' details are already giving rise to fear and uncertainty in academia.

The fear and uncertainty will lead to federal and state lawsuits costing the state millions. More importantly, SB 1 will likely result in an exodus of top-notch professors and students from Ohio. Our economy will suffer.

Already, SB 1 is making Ohio a laughing stock in national academic circles for the plausible scenario of a professor being forced to mark an exam answer as correct even though it is incompatible with facts taught in the course.

I ask you to vote NO on SB 1.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wenda Sheard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Wenda Sheard, JD, PhD