

February 10, 2025

Dear Chairman and members of the committee,

My name is Stephanie Craig. I am a professor at an Ohio college and a community member of Berea, Ohio. I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am deeply concerned that Senate Bill 1 will drive our students out of state to pursue higher education. Students want to attend universities where they can engage in open discussions, explore challenging ideas, and be part of diverse and inclusive communities. This bill tells them that Ohio does not value those things. By eliminating DEI programs, restricting faculty freedom, and imposing vague ideological restrictions, **Senate Bill 1 sends a clear message: Ohio is not committed to academic excellence or student success.**

The departure of these students will not just hurt colleges and universities - it will have lasting consequences for Ohio's economy and workforce. When students leave for better opportunities in other states, they often take their talent, innovation, and leadership with them. **I urge this committee to think beyond partisan politics and consider the long-term damage this bill will do to our state's future.**

The present Senate Bill 1 is an attempt to revive previously failed legislation. Bringing back failed legislation does not make it better. It simply ignores the will of Ohioans who spoke out against it the first time. If we truly care about the future of higher education in this state, we should be supporting policies that foster academic excellence, not reviving bills that were already rejected. **I urge this committee to listen to the people of Ohio and vote against Senate Bill 1.**

Furthermore, Ohioans are facing real problems of high costs at the gas pump, grocery store, and childcare. Senate Bill 1 does nothing to address the daily issues faced by so many of your constituents, rather it only serves to drive a further wedge between us and our neighbors by creating political divides casting diversity as controversy. **I urge you to focus on the issues important to the citizens of your district and our state.**

Sincerely,
Stephanie Craig