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|  | <p>HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE</p> |
| | <p>Witness Form</p> |

Today's Date February 10, 2025

Name: John Dinsmore

Address: 1969 Springtree Ct, Dayton, OH 45459

Telephone: 804-237-9574 (mobile)

Organization Representing: Myself, as a professor.

Testifying on Bill Number: SB1

Testimony: Verbal Written Both Testifying As:

Proponent Opponent

Interested Party Are you a Registered Lobbyist? Yes No

Special Requests: None

Written testimony is a public record and may be posted on the Ohio Senate's website

Testimony of John Dinsmore, MBA, PhD; Professor of Marketing at Wright State University
Before the Senate Higher Education Committee
Senator Kristina Roegner, Chair
February 10, 2025

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Ingram, and Members of the Higher Education Committee:

My name is John Dinsmore, and I am a professor of Marketing at Wright State University, where I have taught for 11 years. I do not represent Wright State, but rather am submitting testimony as a private citizen in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

My father attended University of Virginia law school where one of his professors was a young legal scholar by the name of Antonin Scalia. In those classes, Professor Scalia would use his considerable intellect to argue the opposite of any position a student would take. His goal was not to disparage students, but test them and get them to see alternative points of view. Over the years, my father would mention that class as it challenged and stimulated him. Being able to enter a vigorous and challenging debate on issues of principle was the essence of education.

I would offer that the intent of SB1 is not to encourage the free exchange of ideas, but to stifle it. In my discipline, I begin every class with current events and how they tie to marketing topics. Sometimes those topics involve public policy like the regulation (often favored by progressives) or de-regulation (often favored by conservatives) of markets. Students will offer their opinions and analysis, taking one side or the other. Inherent in these discussions are differing views that challenge students' worldviews.

This is healthy. But, if you create an environment where discourse and respectful disagreement could result in someone's job being at risk, you will severely denigrate the quality of education. Discussions, if they take place at all, will be half-hearted and shallow.

If we treat our children/students as fragile, helpless, and incapable of standing up for themselves. . . then surely that is what they will become.

I respectfully request that SB1 be withdrawn.