

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 Collin Miller. I am a student at the University of Cincinnati from Northeast Ohio and I have attended the university for 3 years. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

Open communication is the foundation of all learning, and debate can be the most stimulating way to understand material. It has been this way long throughout time, dating back to the great thinkers like Aristotle, Socrates, and Plato. Controversial topics have existed since the beginning of time. Taking away the freedom to debate on these topics and articulate facts and beliefs gives way to ignorance and lack of understanding. Not to mention that controversy is very subjective and any attempt to discriminate between what is and isn't controversial is incredibly biased, regardless of who does it.

It is also appalling that this bill requires professors to disclose personal information online, endangering them for trying to teach. It is ridiculous to believe that questions such as this must be asked, "Does the faculty member create a classroom atmosphere free of political, racial, gender, and religious bias?" As though it's some litmus test that will find some discriminatory faculty when really it is a tool to silence teachers who talk on any of these subjects at all. Furthermore, this is hypocritical because of the discrimination that this bill clearly shows against China in some propaganda-like dogma despite China being nowhere near a monolith as no nation or people are.

Finally, taking away professors' right to strike is preposterous. This would rob professors of fighting for better pay, benefits, and working conditions. It's sickening to think that any employee would be disallowed to strike. When a worker loses the right to strike, the government is saying it is okay for companies to take advantage of their workers. Despicable. These are the same American workers that try to make our country great. Education is the foundation of power.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this anti-educational bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.