

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 Iris Meltzer and I live in Kent, Ohio. I am a 2002 graduate of Kent State University with a Master's in Public Health through the Consortium of Eastern Ohio Masters of Public Health. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

While I have numerous concerns about SB 1, my primary one is the potential harm to many disciplines and professions that will be caused by the vagueness of the strictures requiring "intellectual diversity". Under this rubric lurks the very real potential for students to graduate from the field of anthropology or archeology having never had their mistaken belief that the Earth is 6,000 years old challenged.

Other students might well graduate with degrees in biology or biochemistry never having had their conviction that evolution is a myth challenged.

As a final example, what sort of historians will Ohio turn out if some students believe that Native Americans were not victims of relocation and land theft? If they deem slavery as appropriate and "not too bad"? If they consider the Holocaust a myth?

Under the guise of this diversity (the only diversity allowed, apparently) the pace of human knowledge and progress can only be slowed. Students interested in academic rigor will most assuredly avoid Ohio's many currently great institutions of higher learning. Our brain drain can but increase under the proposed bill.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on these harmful and extremist bills.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.