

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 Anna Gribbell. I am a student of Miami University studying anthropology and museum studies. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

Today, you threaten the ability of myself and many others to finish my education. Anthropology is the study of humans and their societies and cultures. One cannot study anthropology without also studying gender, race, ethnicity, and several other subjects that you have deemed “too controversial” to be taught. If this bill is passed, it will set back our nation by several decades.

In this room, there are several women that serve as Representatives of Ohio. This would not have been possible before 1917, when Jeannette Rankin was sworn in as the first woman in the House of Representatives. Just three years later, women gained the right to vote. Is this not an important part of our nation’s history? Do future generations not deserve to hear this story of how women banded together and triumphed over their unfair circumstances? When history is forgotten, it is doomed to be repeated.

What you propose today also affects our nation’s museological institutions. As of 2017, the American Alliance of Museums found that 86% of voters consistently supported museums, 99% of voters believed museums to be educational, 91% of voters thought museums helped the economy, 95% of voters would approve of Lawmakers who support museums, and 96% of voters supported federal funding of museums. The reason that museums are able to be this bastion of trust that American voters support is due to the educated people who work for them. If you take away students' rights to learn certain subjects at a university level, the quality of these institutions will drastically decrease. The future of education and the future of these museums are in your hands today.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this extremist bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.