

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 Joanne McMullen, MBA, MA. I am retired from teaching at Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine in Athens, Ohio . I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

Section 8 of the bill bans “DEI.” Diversity is the very basis of this country and what the Statue of Liberty stands for. Equity means all people will have equal rights as mentioned in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. Inclusion means people will be included to exercise these rights with others who have similar or different opinions.

SB 1 will devastate educators and education in Ohio.

Posting syllabi publicly will open teachers to harassment, and possible violence, from anyone with a different belief.

Allowing students to reach their own conclusions will lead to patient injury and deaths by allowing medical providers to follow personal beliefs instead of accepted science.

Allowing students to reach their own conclusions will make exams irrelevant by preventing faculty from marking answers wrong if students believe their answer.

The post-tenure review process essentially ends tenure in Ohio, which will lead to loss of our most talented faculty.

The prohibitions on collective bargaining subjects guts collective bargaining and will certainly lead to the same losses of collective bargaining subjects for all Ohio unions. Restrictions on relationships with China will severely hamper research the U.S. desperately needs for self-defense.

The prohibitions on trainings will make it impossible to teach an accurate history (and accurate history protects and enriches the United States; it is our most precious safeguard) and will lead to the disbanding of student groups and curriculum that focuses on any particular group.

The ban on faculty strikes will be used to take that right away from all Ohio unions, removing the ability for Ohio workers to protect themselves against oppressive conditions.

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

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.