

Dear Chairwomen Kristina D. Roegner, Vice Chair Jerry C. Cirino, Ranking Member Catherine D. Ingram, and the members of the High Education Committee,

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony for Senate Bill One. My name is Lindsey Bennett. I am a junior Political Science major and Women's Studies minor at Kent State University. I am strongly opposed to Senate Bill One.

I hereby state my testimony for myself, and by myself, not for any other institution or peer. My first year attending Kent State, I was unsure of what to study. After talking to counselors and studying the choices I had to choose from, I knew I wanted to major in Political Science, and especially knew I was going to minor in Women's Studies. Growing up, my favorite school subject was history. While my peers were falling asleep, I was tuning in. History, and most importantly American history, is so important to learn about because it is deemed to repeat itself. Being able to learn about women's history in the United States is extremely important because the milestones of women's rights are so recent. The 19th Amendment just had its 100th anniversary. My parents were born before women had the right to open a credit card without their husbands permission. I am a part of the first few generations to not have any roadblocks in my academic career because I am a woman.

Getting an education is a right and a privilege, and being able to study my own interests is a right I would like to keep. This bill would allow departments like the Women's Studies Department at Kent State University to cease to exist.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this harmful bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

