

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 Aubrie Brandon. I am an undergraduate student at The Ohio State University working towards my Bachelors of Science in Social Work and my Masters of Social Work. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

As part of my vital and pertinent education, I must complete 400 internship hours to graduate. I have chosen to spend these 400 hours serving and working alongside teens, college students, and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, such as Autism, and their families to provide them various supports. One of these supports is case management for college students with Autism and other forms of neurodiversity. It is my duty to make sure my clients/fellow students are able to learn in the least restrictive manner possible and get involved with the wider student body in whatever ways they see fit. SB 1 would gut the support my clients/fellow students receive and literally shape their futures for the worst. Some possible consequences include, not being able to receive higher education and instead, being stuck working a job that pays sub-minimum wage or living in an environment that does not support autonomy or personal rights to name a few.

This bill would also drastically reduce my chances of graduating with my MSW, and serving various client populations to the best of personal and ethical abilities as outlined in the NASW Code of Ethics. If SB1 and HB6 were to pass, the College of Social Work at The Ohio State University, along with all other Ohio universities providing education in Social Work, would face the very real and likely possibility of losing their accreditation as set by the standards from the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).

Perhaps this is part of the larger plan though. To destroy and eradicate countless social safety nets, supports, and rights of the most vulnerable and oppressed in our society starting with the end of education for those who serve these populations such as social workers, educators, healthcare workers, and other students, professionals, and community members impacted by this bill. I see what you all are striving for though this bill and for what this truly is: fascism. You are coming for the socialist, the trade unionist, the professor, the social worker, and so on. We will not go back. I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this fascist bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.