

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Senate Higher Education Committee,  
Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony today.

My name is Andrea Bauer. I am a retired Ohio Public School Teacher, a member of the LWV, a wife, a mother, and a grandmother. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

When I think of a quality college education, I think of critical thinking skills. To be a highly functioning member of society, you need to be a critical thinker. Businesses look for people who have the ability to weigh options and make informed decisions. The way this bill is written it discourages free dialogue in a classroom. It thwarts professors from encouraging active dialogue which allow critical thinking skills to develop. A great teacher engages students in the process of learning. If there is a constant fear that the dialogue might be interpreted as controversial, fear of open dialogue becomes a form of censorship. Do we want our future leaders to not have the ability to interpret information? Excellent teachers are always probing: Why? Why? How? This bill will cause our universities to not be effective educators.

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

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide written testimony.  
Andrea Bauer