

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 Debbie Klein. I am a nonprofit professional and a concerned parent. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

My son is a student at The Ohio State University, where he is a Morrill Scholar. I am testifying in opposition to Senate Bill 1 because it threatens the integrity of higher education and limits the opportunities available to my son and my daughters, who will attend college in a few years.

As a parent, I want my children to receive the best education possible, one that prepares them to think critically, engage in meaningful discourse, and navigate an increasingly diverse world. This bill seeks to inject political oversight into university curriculums, stripping institutions of their ability to provide a robust and independent education. The elimination of DEI programs sends a message that Ohio does not value inclusion and equal opportunity. Moreover, the removal of collective bargaining rights for faculty members could destabilize our universities, making it harder to attract and retain quality educators.

I want Ohio to be a place where my children can receive a top-tier education and find meaningful careers, but this bill jeopardizes that possibility. Please vote against Senate Bill 1.

Thank you.