

February 10, 2025

To: 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 Karen C. Haely. I am a parent of two sons, one in high school and one in college. I'm also a college professor, having taught in both private and public institutions in Ohio for over 32 years. **I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.**

Placing restrictions on content that can be taught to students runs the risk of cutting out important works of literature, medicine, genetics, microbiology, psychology, history, philosophy, religion, and art, just to name a few. And, though people often don't realize it, the bill would prohibit the teaching of almost all books of the Christian Bible, because it routinely depicts the things the bill wants to prohibit. The entire book tells stories that are and were in their times controversial. (Jesus was controversial – that's why they killed him.) It is a strange result indeed that the people usually so interested in ensuring their Christian religion is safe from restrictions would want their own book banned in schools and colleges. I doubt a College or high school could offer *any* course on religion if this bill passes, whether it is Christianity or any other religious view, nor could it teach about historical disagreements, wars, crusades, etc., that hinged on religious views. The problem is that the language of the bill is so vague and ill-conceived that almost anything could count as "political controversy". For example, I teach biomedical ethics and must teach future physicians and nurses about many controversial things in the history of medicine, the law, and current codes of ethics, all of which would run afoul of the proposed bill. My sons would not be able to learn about the Holocaust, Stalin's starvation of his own people, the effects of climate change, how vaccines can help stem the spread of illness, or even how genetic engineering works and what is controversial about it. Much of science is controversial when seen from a superstitious or religious view (e.g., Christian Scientists find all healthcare illegitimate, so teaching people to even *become* doctors is, on this view, "controversial", so does this bill prohibit medical and nursing schools from functioning?). These restrictions would result in a dystopian world where virtually anything could be silenced, much like what is depicted in Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*.

I'm not even sure what a student would be allowed to learn should this bill pass. So, I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this ill-conceived bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.



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