

**Opponent Testimony for Senate Bill 1**  
**Submitted by: Cassandra L Jones**  
**Organization: N/A**  
**Testifying as Opponent**

Chair Roegner, Vice-Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Ingram and Members of the Higher Education Committee

My name is Cassandra Jones, I live in Cincinnati, OH. I am an educator and concerned citizen, and I am asking this committee to oppose Senate Bill 1 which will make Ohio colleges and universities hostile to veterans, women, and students and faculty of color.

SB1 specifically looks to eliminate scholarships and organizations that support the educational goals of these groups. By targeting DEI orientations, for instance, this bill threatens programs such as Transitions, which currently helps first-generation African American students find community and support on campus, both of which lead to greater student retention and graduation rates, and make for a more educated Ohio citizenry. Removing support for students of color to share their experiences about the everyday acts of racism and other issues they encounter that interfere with their success and making it illegal for them to begin organizations to discuss these issues is a violation of freedom of speech and renders the university an actively hostile place for learning.

I believe that passing this bill is bad for students, bad for higher education and bad for Ohio because requiring students to come to their own conclusion on any controversial subject puts scientific and historical facts on an equal playing field with any conspiracy theories that have currently come to be seen as "controversial."

I respectfully urge the Senate Higher Education Committee to consider my testimony and to vote NO on SB1. Thank you for your time and the opportunity to testify in support of this legislation.