

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 Celeste Irving. I am an Ohio resident, an educator, a OSU graduate and a mother of two children whose futures are both bright and shadowed. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

I oppose this bill and its companion because we need challenging views, thoughtful ideas, and the ability to ask questions of our brightest. This is what makes people grow. Without growth we become a stagnant society that will slip backwards into inaction, thoughtlessness, and the inability to make real progress at a time when we so desperately need it.

We don't know what the future will bring, we can only prepare for it. My children will be raised to question everything, to have compassion, and to look at the world both scientifically, harshly, objectively and with potential. These bills do not allow for that for that to happen in higher learning. They will punish the pursuit of truth, and allow for the dismantling of a true education.

If these bills pass, I will encourage the trades, skills, and education of anyone (including my own families) to be taken elsewhere, to a state that empowers their faculty and students instead of putting them in boxes that are both stifling and dangerous.

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

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Celeste Irving