

2/10/2025

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 Meeghan Humphrey I am the parent of a Field Biologist with a Master's Degree in Ecology and Evolution. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

I have many concerns about this bill. One of my concerns is that many concepts that have been proven by science and are nearly universally held by those in the field are considered "politically controversial". This includes my son's entire field of study. He has taught basic biology at the college level and this bill would require him to accept the "Intelligent Design" theory as a test response because it offers an alternate point of view from what is accepted science. My son can easily prove that evolution is fact in a matter of weeks with a few fruit flies. Another topic of controversy is climate change which has also been proven to exist and to have been impacted by the actions of humans. He would be disallowed from discussing this as fact.

In addition, the fact that every syllabus would be open to criticism from anyone will cause a chilling effect on free speech in the academic system in Ohio. Teachers will be under pressure to scrub anything from the curriculum that could trigger the need for a response from the institution. I expect political activists to flood institutions with nuisance complaints to the point that vast resources will be wasted on the mandatory responses.

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

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Meeghan Humphrey
456 Plymouth Ridge Rd
Ashtabula, OH 44004
440-992-3886