

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Sophie Swengel, and I am an undergraduate at Kent State University studying history and creative writing. I stand opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6, though I would like to use this space to highlight some of the lesser publicized side effects of this bill. If passed, Senate Bill 1 would remove jobs protections from educators as well as allow colleges and universities to end programs and terminate faculty positions without warning or cause. With my university undergoing numerous complex restructuring processes already; and, having received inside word that it is to cut its PhD program in History, I can't bear to see similar shockwaves to current programs and positions across my campus or otherwise, in my field or otherwise, in the state of Ohio. The bonds I have formed with my professors during my time at Kent State have been innumerable, and such an occupation should be treated with the utmost dignity by the state.

As for the more quote-on-quote 'controversial' aspects of the bill, as a creative minded person familiar with the tactics of subversion and subtlety, I regret to inform you that even if this bill does pass, me and surely many other youngsters across the state will continue functioning as free thinking and free talking individuals. I know what it is like to break social law on any day that I create in any way, given the mass pressures on me by some individuals to give up any long strung-out pursuit that requires thought and care and either A) do something that would get me put in actual jail and taint my name for life, or B) just waste away on my sofa all day because I haven't the guts to do A). I think all of us in this room can agree that doing something positive is better than doing something negative or nothing at all, even if you think censorship is somehow a partisan issue in any way. But, hey, everyone's opinion deserves challenging, I guess. I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.