

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 Phoebe Bradford, and I am a student from Oberlin College. I have lived in Ohio for two years now and have grown to love everything this state has to offer, including the wildlife conservation sites, art and culture, and of course Skyline Chili. However, the bills being proposed such as SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6 have heavily hurt my perception of this state.

At Oberlin, we are taught to always question everything we read, whether or not our political or personal thoughts align with what we are learning. We are encouraged to disagree with each other, to debate, and explore other viewpoints for the purpose of a well-rounded education. I have been able to learn so much in just two years from my professors and classmates, and they have helped me grow into a smarter and kinder person. However, such bills like SB 1 and HB 6 would inhibit students from being able to even explore important topics through hurting workers and professors' jobs. It should not be the government's choice to take away such foundational parts of colleges and universities that shape so many people's lives. It should be up to the colleges and professors themselves to decide what they teach and how they teach it, regardless of what the current people in power's agendas are.

You have the opportunity to stop something that would hurt so many people, and I know I have been taught that standing aside or even contributing to such laws is how we lose community and safety.

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

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify,

Phoebe Bradford.