

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Senate Higher Education Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to share my testimony. My name is Derek Ames Petrey. I am an educator and lay church leader, born and raised in Dayton, Ohio. I strongly oppose SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

I was able to learn the foreign languages I know, and the ones I am certified in teach in, only because of Ohio's **very strong and competitive educational system**. A product of Dayton Public Schools, a graduate of Wright State and Ohio State Universities, I was able to both have studied abroad and lead study abroad programs through Ohio educational institutions. I am very proud of the talent Ohio is capable of producing, and profoundly grateful for the diversity of my instructors and fellow students, their willingness to include me into the cultures and places where their language was dominant, and their gift of teaching me not **what** to think, but **how** to think.

I was able, in addition to working in education, to also use these skills **to assist my church community in interpretation and translation**, as well as maintain a small business in language services for several years. Religious and private schools are **absolutely dependent on the language and cultural training** provided by these public secular schools. I have visited countries where faculty did not enjoy the academic freedoms that our great state and country have enshrined into practice and code, and I am proud to count the freedoms of research and cultural expression to go hand-in-hand with my religious freedom, my economic freedom, and the pursuit of my happiness.

The Soviet Union, and subsequent Russian Empire's, decline in civic discourse was directly related to **the shuttering and silencing of intellectuals and other critics** to their regime. As the famous Russian dissident Aleksandr I. Solzhenitsyn, stated **"It's a universal law-- intolerance is the first sign of an inadequate education. An ill-educated person behaves with arrogant impatience, whereas truly profound education breeds humility."** Countries around the world still respect and envy us to the extent that we practice and enforce our freedoms. This makes our students competitive regionally, nationally, and internationally. The arrogance of those who believe that our education needs not financial support, but conformist reform, betrays their lack of understanding of the value of a well-rounded education **that creates global citizens who are professionally and culturally competent**. I ask you to consider my testimony and respect the dedicated faculty who are the real job creators in preparing an educated and engaged workforce. Please vote NO on this ill-conceived, overreaching, micro-managing, unfunded mandate of a bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify,

Dr. Derek A. Petrey, Chair, Leadership Team, St Paul United Methodist Church
"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you." (Philippians 4:8-9, NIV)