



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

The Board of Public Education Partners is opposed to [Senate Bill 1](#). Public education advocates have seen more than their share of outrageous legislation targeting K-12 public-school districts that serve most of Ohio's children and families, and sadly, some lawmakers have turned their sights on higher education as well.

Those same legislators promote extreme education policies with the claim that Ohio must strengthen its "workforce," yet many college students have vowed to leave Ohio upon graduation because of the current policy initiatives of the legislative majority.

The best way to make sure we have enough young people to fill Ohio jobs is to stop this extremism. Whenever an extreme law like SB 1 is introduced, and then changes make it less extreme, it still ends up being an extreme law.

Sadly, this happens often with our Ohio Legislature.

SB 1 is the first bill that the Ohio Senate introduced in this new legislative session. It sends Ohioans a message that the highest priority for the Senate Republican caucus this year is attacking working people and their rights.

SB 1 is a harmful attack on working people by limiting collective bargaining rights and attempting to silence the voices of more than 10,000 higher education workers who educate the next generation of Ohio leaders and drive our research economy.

SB 1 will begin the dismantling of collective bargaining rights for all workers, and that is unacceptable!

Last November, the election was focused on jobs and the price of groceries, heating bills, prescription drugs, and gasoline. The people who elected you didn't give you permission to attack working people and their rights.

Academic freedom will not be protected if SB 1 passes. This extreme bill would allow college students to "affirm and declare that faculty and staff shall allow and encourage students to reach their own conclusions about all controversial beliefs or policies." Faculty would be forced to present all sides of culture war issues- so-called controversial

subjects (climate policies, electoral politics, foreign policy, diversity, equity, and inclusion programs, immigration policy, etc.), even debunked conspiracy theories, as though they were equally valid.

Senate Bill 1 is a shameful attempt to micromanage Ohio colleges, universities, and higher education faculty and staff on ideology that is rooted in the politically motivated culture wars.

Your constituents expect much higher priorities from their elected leaders than culture war issues, which are a distraction from what is really happening and what really needs to be done at the Ohio Statehouse to support both K-12 and higher education in the Buckeye State.

Please vote NO on Senate Bill 1, a harmful bill that is the epitome of government overreach.

Thank you for your service!

Jeanne Melvin and the Board of
Public Education Partners

