

I am a white guy. I like being a white guy. I have been lucky enough to do some teaching over the years in a wide range of settings, from kindergarten to graduate school.

One of the things that has made my teaching better – and my life better – is diversity education. It has brought so many wonderful people and powerful ideas into my life.

These days it has become fashionable to attack diversity programs. They get blamed for everything from wildfires to helicopter crashes. Diversity (all people are valuable), Equity (all people should be treated fairly) and Inclusion (all people get to belong) or DEI, is in truth an extraordinary force for good.

If SB1 is passed by the Ohio legislature and becomes law, much of this good goes away. Ohio will join a depressing list of states where the brightest, most capable and most caring people of every race will no longer want to work and live.

These programs aren't assaulting white people or men. They benefit everyone, whatever their identity or background. This isn't a game where when one group is treated fairly others need to suffer. If we really embrace the promise of DEI done with excellence, everyone in Ohio will benefit.

Please act with vision, integrity and leadership. If this unfortunate bill comes to a vote, vote no on SB1. Thank you.

John Schmieding