

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 Ginny Russell, and I am a double board certified physician in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics, and current practicing physician and educator in Ohio. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

As a physician, I am dedicated to caring for patients from all backgrounds and walks of life. I take pride in serving my community and striving for healthier outcomes for all. A key part of this mission is medical education – future physicians must be trained to understand and care for diverse patient populations without restriction. This includes education on reproductive care and women’s health, social determinants of health, and the effects of systemic racism on health. Limiting medical education in a biased way will result in underprepared doctors, ultimately compromising the quality of care for the communities we serve.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this harmful, restrictive, life-threatening bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Ginny Russell, MD, MPH