

**Opponent Testimony for Senate Bill 1**  
**Ohio Senate Higher Education Committee**  
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Ohio Resident

Chair Kristina D. Roegner, Vice Chair Jerry C. Cirino, Ranking Member Catherine D. Ingram, and members of the Higher Education Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify. My name is Rhonda Fleischman. I am an advanced practice nurse serving my profession for over 36 years. I was raised in Northeast Ohio, where I (along with my husband of 30 plus years), raised our family. I worked hard to support myself and achieve my degrees as well as my children's higher education. I value higher education and the opportunities it provides which is why I have concerns with the direction the State of Ohio Senate is proposing. Now, thanks to Senate Bill 1, the educational future in Ohio is in jeopardy.

I am writing to oppose SB1 to Enact the Ohio Higher Education Act. I oppose this bill in its entirety, as I believe its proposed free speech 'protections' are in bad faith and that the outlined reforms are solutions in want of a problem. I believe it will undermine the ability of Ohio's public colleges and universities to offer competitive, high-quality programs and degrees. It is well-known our state is experiencing a population "loss" as youth are leaving our state for the better opportunities other states provide. Why would we want to implement yet another barrier to our youth?

In fact, there is so much harmful, vague, and oppressive language in this bill that I could submit pages of evidence-based concerns and expected long-term consequences were it to pass. As a health care professional certified in my specialty, my oath as a nurse and humanity as a Christian moves me to voice my concerns regarding SB1. The evidence is overwhelming regarding the racial and cultural disparities in the United States Health Care System from research to services provided. This includes nursing care. Nurses impact patient outcomes. Nurses will not be able to fulfill our oath to all patients if nurses do not receive the adequate training to provide appropriate treatment and care to patients regardless of culture or ethnicity.

I'll say it again: racial and cultural disparities impact patient outcomes. SB1 undermines our ability to train healthcare professionals to address those disparities. Thus, I ask you to please consider my testimony and vote NO on SB1, in the name of every Ohio patient.