

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 Patricia Zanin. I am an Ohio CPA, married, mother of two and grandmother of three. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

I am alarmed at the provision to eliminate DEI programs. These program services are essential for supporting underrepresented students and giving equal opportunities to all Ohioans. Diversity of thought and experience is essential to the growth of our young students. As a third year resident in OB/GYN practice at Aultman Hospital in Canton Ohio, my daughter daily treats patients at the clinic that are from a variety of social, ethnic and economic backgrounds. Understanding her patients is crucial to the practice of thorough and compassionate health care. We cannot afford the risk to these populations that we would create by eliminating so called controversial topics such as reproductive health in our universities. Well informed knowledgeable doctors will make for healthier patient populations, which is better for all in Ohio.

I urge you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this destructive bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely

Patricia Zanin