

Sara Shipe  
Regarding Ohio Senate Bill 1: Enact Advance Ohio Higher Education Act  
February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025

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

Thank you for considering my testimony. My name is Sara Shipe. I am a Summit County resident and proud holder of a Bachelor of Arts degree, attained in 2017. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

My college experience would not have been as well-rounded or fulfilling if I had not been exposed to professors, fellow students, and study materials from a great diversity of backgrounds. Interacting with and learning from people from different walks of life not only expanded my worldview, but my capacity for empathy. I am a better person because of the relationships and growth my education afforded me.

I firmly believe that my education would have been deeply hampered by what this bill proposes, and that it would be a disservice to current and future students to allow it to pass. Being unable to discuss controversial topics such as “climate policy, immigration policy, abortion, and political controversy” would leave many fields of study dangerously incomplete and would only further the polarization we see in areas like politics, health, and the sciences. Conflicting opinions on these topics can and will arise in the classroom, and we should continue allowing professors to do their jobs in mediating these discussions—and dispelling falsehoods that could contribute to the spread of extremist ideologies.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this harmful bill, which only serves to subvert the freedom of speech in higher education rather than protect it.

Thank you,  
Sara Shipe  
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio