

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

I am Maureen Schwab, a retired nurse, educator, and compliance officer. I worked with The Christ Hospital and College as a nurse and to assure we met the legal/compliance requirements of federal, state, and local agencies. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

Throughout my nursing and teaching experience, I met people of all cultures, races, faiths and backgrounds. Each person deserved and expected to be treated with kindness and respect. Failure to recognize a person's culture or practices can be, at minimum, disrespectful and, at a more devastating level, interfere with providing appropriate treatment and care. Part of the educational process is learning a multitude of cultures and practices so we can, as nurses, health providers, and educators, treat and support the person with whom we are interacting with the upmost regard and care. SB1 and HB6 will prevent educators and healthcare professionals from teaching this information and practicing properly.

It is also critical that students learn about history in the way it occurred so we are not destined to repeat it. Not allowing history to be taught with the complexity in which it occurred is not only false, but denies the student the ability to analyze complex and truthful data. This skill is essential to be able to critically think and provide the best and appropriate care to the populations with which we interact. Education must foster open discussions about difficult subjects and diverse perspectives.

This bill forces a distorted definition of intellectual diversity that could harm evidence-based teaching and nursing practice. The bill aims to eliminate vital diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives that allow for more accessible and equitable learning environments. I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this harmful and discriminatory bill. Censoring education is not what our county and state are built upon nor should it be the way of the future as it leads to bigotry and ignorance.

Maureen Schwab, RN, BSN, M.Ed., MS