

Opposition Testimony for SB1
Senate Higher Education Committee
February 8, 2025

Adria Catanese
Concerned Citizen

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 Adria Catanese and I am a born and raised Ohioan with a student in college and a student in high school.

I am here to oppose SB 1.

I attended higher education for both my undergraduate and post graduates degrees in Ohio. My oldest daughter is currently attending college in state and my youngest, once graduated from high school will most likely attend a college here as well.

As a parent, we all want our children to have the best in life. As a degreed engineer with an MBA and 34 years in the work force, I place a high value on education. And not just degreed education but a value in continued learning whether it's a degree or a skilled trades.

The elimination of DEI is short-sighted. Unfortunately, most people have a myopic view of DEI. America has always been a melting pot. It's not a black and white issue. As a woman in a male dominated industry, I've had to deal with many issues I hope my daughters never will. But in eliminating DEI, it brings back the potential for them to be exposed to the inequities that I have spent my career dealing with. All because I am a woman.

In regards to student faculty policy complaints and faculty evaluations, it sounds like it is more of an opportunity to "snitch" on faculty or other students who are not "complying". Otherwise, funds will be withheld which sounds like a threat. I also think that taking away the students ability to vote, effectively silences them and does not promote any sort of collaboration which is shameful.

I applaud the concept of an American Civics course. But what I find interesting is that we have elected officials who are completely disregarding the US Constitution and its amendments TODAY as we speak. We also have cases of disregard of the Ohio Constitution (voucher program, potential defunding of public schools, RTRI, House of Representatives who say "We can do whatever we want", given the Republican majority, etc). So while I commend the thought of having a civics course, I really wonder about the intent of what it is you require to be taught.

SB1 is overreaching and too controlling. This bill gives Republicans the ability to craft the narrative that they want taught by requiring institutions to submit syllabi and

change content if the Chancellor disagrees with it, Higher education is about being thought provoking, stretching student's minds, teaching them to think broadly and providing exposure to diverse thoughts and opinions. This bill does not support that purpose.

Please vote NO on SB 1.

Thank you.