

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 Alex Silverio. I am a Senior Academic Advisor at Kent State University. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

As an academic advisor, I get to witness the way in which students broaden their intellect and critical thinking skills by allowing them to take courses which this bill targets. This bill is essentially prohibiting instructors from teaching real world events that have either happened or are currently happening and affect many different populations. You simply cannot hide such things and shrug them under a rug, which is what this bill would do.

This bill also would not only hurt our students, but our faculties as well. Our faculties are already under a lot of stress with balancing their research, teaching and other tasks that they must fulfill to receive their benefits. If we do not allow faculty to collaborate amongst certain foreign institutions to provide beneficial research, not give them liberty to teach certain subjects, make it impossible for them to get tenure and forbid them from being able to go on strike we will lose professional talent and many will fear not having a stable job.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this harmful and extremist bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.