

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 Katherine Rivet. I am a proud graduate of Ohio University and a resident of Vermilion. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

I selected and attended Ohio University because I wanted to get a strong liberal arts education at a state institution; a good education at an affordable price. After graduating Magna Cum Laude with a B.A. in History in 2003, I took a position out of state. Nine years ago my husband (a native of Louisiana) and I returned to Ohio, both obtaining positions in the Cleveland area with the intention of making this our permanent home and where we would raise any potential children.

Ohio's exceptional opportunities for higher education were a major consideration for our decision to return to the state. I knew that our potential children could have their pick of excellent institutions, and they wouldn't need to leave the state to find it. This will not be the case if SB 1/HB 6 is passed. If the state government can unilaterally determine what can and cannot be discussed/taught at our colleges, what is the point of paying for education? If the quality of the faculty at these schools is seriously diminished because of the severely restricted bargaining ability, why waste our money at an Ohio school with subpar professors? As a historian, the idea that the state can require the institutions to literally white-wash history in the name of 'equality of the races' would force me to actively encourage any children of my own or my friends and family to seek an education outside the state.

It is my firm belief that this bill would be incredibly damaging to Ohio's stellar record as a leader in higher education in this country. Once the student exodus to other state institutions begins, our many, many college towns would see their economies decimated.

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

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Katherine Rivet