

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 Leslie Whitten. I am a special education teacher at Northmont High School in Dayton, Ohio. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

As a special education teacher in Ohio, I oppose HB 6 because it undermines the resources and support needed for students with disabilities. The bill's proposed changes to education funding and policies threaten to diminish critical services for these students, who already face unique challenges in their learning environments. By potentially diverting funds from special education programs and reducing necessary accommodations, HB 6 could negatively impact the quality of education and limit opportunities for our most vulnerable students to thrive. Every child deserves equitable access to education, and this bill does not support that principle.

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

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Leslie Whitten