

Opponent Testimony Against Ohio Senate Bill 1

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

Thank you for allowing my testimony. My name is Brittany Hulbert. I am a lifelong resident of Ohio, a graduate of The Ohio State University, a mother, and a concerned citizen. I strongly oppose Ohio Senate Bill 1 and the companion bill HB 6. SB 1 is a bill that poses a direct threat to the integrity of higher education in our state. This legislation's vague and sweeping definition of "controversial belief or policy" will have far-reaching and damaging consequences for our students, our institutions, and our future workforce.

By restricting the ability of educators to engage with politically sensitive topics—including public health and historical events—this bill undermines the very foundation of higher education: the pursuit of truth and knowledge. Experts have already warned that this legislation could make it nearly impossible to teach about historical events like the Holocaust if instructors are unable to correct misinformation or denial. Medical professionals have raised alarms that this bill will prevent future doctors from learning about the real, verifiable disparities in health outcomes across different communities, putting lives at risk.

This bill silences academic inquiry and forces students into an education system that ignores reality. Education should prepare students for the real world, not shield them from established facts that some find uncomfortable. This bill restricts academic freedom, discourages honest discussions, and leaves students less informed and less prepared for the future. It is a clear example of extreme government overreach, dictating what can and cannot be taught in our universities based on political ideology rather than facts.

Ohio has long been known for its strong higher education system, home to top-ranked universities and colleges that attract talented students and educators from across the country. Senate Bill 1 threatens to undermine that reputation. If enacted, it will drive both students and faculty out of Ohio, weaken our institutions, and make our state less competitive in an economy that depends on knowledge and innovation.

This bill is a step backward and I urge you to vote No on SB 1.

Sincerely,

Brittany Hulbert

Brittany Hulbert