

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 Christine Morfit. I am currently a public school secretary at a high school in Akron, Ohio. I have spent my career in the world of education. I've held positions at k-12 schools and colleges. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

Education is the American right that allows our community to grow deeper relationships with each other and the world around us. SB 1 would drastically limit how much of America's factual history can be taught, and limit the free speech we have to discuss those topics. The language of this bill also clearly protects views of white supremacy while erasing the importance of diversity in American culture. Our country's history may make some people feel uncomfortable, and it should. However, that does not mean we must cater to those sensitivities and deny that events like colonization, slavery, the holocaust, and segregation ever happened. This quote from Sanjeev Himarchali expresses a great point for us as students and us as patriots:

"CRITICISM is part of LEARNING and GROWTH. It means that you are taking INITIATIVES to learn something new and grow over from your current state. If you are not getting criticised, it means you are not taking enough RISK to learn something new and to grow."

SB 1 would eliminate this idea of criticism. We must be challenged to grow; SB 1 stunts us.

Other language in SB 1 elicits issues for unions in Ohio. Limiting any faculty from striking or using workloads as bargaining subjects, and giving a narrow window of when faculty could be bargaining members (between 30 and 35 years of service) would create extremely concerning precedents for all Ohio unions. Public school unions members, such as OEA, NEO, AEA, AACP, etc, are all voting constituents who are watching this vote. I urge you to oppose SB 1.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this extremist, un-American bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.