

Hello, I am Nev Mosley, an alumni of University of Cincinnati, and I am writing to oppose Ohio Senate Bill 1/House Bill 6. I believe the bill, as proposed, will take away the academic integrity of schools in Ohio, ultimately leading to a decline in student enrollment and furthering distrust between the Government and Higher Education.

The issue I have with SB 1/HB 6 as presented lies in the fact that the bill features a series of contradictions on freedom of speech. While the bill claims to be promoting intellectual diversity, it simultaneously dictates the content of the topics as well as the manner in which topics can be discussed. This would also cut programs that help marginalized communities succeed in higher education, including resources for single moms and women experiencing domestic violence, queer students, and most importantly for the University I come from, resources for the local community of mostly African-Americans who depend on these long standing programs to be able to afford higher education.

The issues I have with the bills are further driven by the extraordinary amount of money, time, and attention cutting these programs and implementing new anti-DEI programs would cost Ohio universities. It diverts attention from student learning to bloated bureaucracy. It will make it even more difficult to attract out-of-state students (who make universities more money per individual) as well as it will drive in-state students to better universities out of state. This will also drive good faculty out of the state, exacerbating the issue many Ohioans have with teacher quality in lower and upper education. At the end of the day, none of the bill as proposed will advance higher education. Instead, this is a bill deeply rooted in Culture-War ideology.

This bill will cut many more jobs than just higher education faculty as well. Requiring social workers and their local programs to maintain competency in the areas of diversity, privilege, oppression, and intersectionality has been central to the Council on Social Work Education's (CSWE) accreditation standards since 1952. With the ban of DEI course content, social workers would not be able to achieve the required certifications for program accreditation, which will in turn hinder schools of social work's ability to ensure that faculty adhere to accreditation standards and the profession's Code of Ethics. Thus, SB 1 & HB 6 could lead to social work programs losing accreditation. This directly affects children and young adults in Ohio as social work is necessary to help individuals and American families prevent and cope with problems in their everyday lives. It keeps families together and helps grow communities.

This would also pose issues for students financing their own college. This bill will cause the cost of tuition to increase by placing more bureaucratic unfunded mandates on colleges and universities.

We also have a surplus of Chinese and Indian students (amongst some of the minority communities we see more frequently in Ohio) who provide a significant amount to our communities and abilities to learn and grow. This will drive international students away as well as cause a huge financial hit to all of Ohio Universities, as our international students make up 9% of the population and in 2023, in the United States, international students contributed over \$50 billion to the U.S. economy.

We are at a horrible point in American history where we want to cut programs and misunderstand things that aren't meant for us. Let me make it very clear, this bill will completely strip the rights of the average adult in Ohio to receive a fair and unbiased education. By banning information that is "DEI", we completely twist and misunderstand the meaning. This bill will make it harder for all women to go to college, it will defund and banish programs that have existed

historically for colleges in Ohio to promote diversity. At University of Cincinnati, the Darwin Turner program was established after Darwin Turner, a black man, became the youngest graduate in the University's history. The program has been around for 50 years and promotes academic excellence, fosters diversity, and provides leadership and service opportunities to black students of UC. This program never took anything away from other white students. These students are required to complete the same prerequisites to keep their scholarship as others in the University who have "non-DEI scholarships", which include maintaining 12 credit hours per semester, a 3.0-3.2 GPA, and completion of community service hours. There are non-DEI programs that are offered to students to balance this out, such as the Cincinnati scholarship and an array of learning communities. To cut our DEI program, it would be hypocritical to not also recognize the "unfair advantage" that these other scholarships and learning communities provide. These students, regardless of race, sexual orientation, gender, must conform and meet specific guidelines to continue to benefit from these programs.

In conclusion, SB1/HB6 does very little to provide economic or social benefit to our state. Defunding these programs will give the world the idea that we believe our universities and people are dumb, which will greatly affect the reputation of Ohio's education system and destroy the economy that higher education pays into. This decision will ultimately further polarize college communities apart from one another and apart from the general public. This is a conscious effort to demonize higher education and create a bigger wedge in the working class people. I am not a product of DEI, but to see how much my fellow students have benefitted from their programs makes me sick that Ohio would want to cut them. It makes me feel bad for the single mother who will no longer have access to campus resources to finish her degree, including community support from women's centers. It makes me feel bad for the predominantly black students at inner city schools who worked hard for years to go to college, only for no one, including their parents and the university, to be able to fund that education since their ability to compete with private and higher funded schools will have an immeasurable gap. I have empathy for our people and desire to grow as a community, which is why I denounce and oppose SB1/HB6.