

Opponent Testimony for S.B. 1
Ohio Senate Education Committee

February 9, 2025

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

Thank you for carefully reading and considering my statement. My name is Trinity Lescallett, and I am a resident of Tiffin, Ohio. I am writing to express my opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I stand firmly against Senate Bill 1 because it undermines the fundamental principles of academic freedom, inclusion, and critical thinking that are essential to a thriving democracy. By restricting how universities address diversity and banning faculty from engaging with so-called "controversial" topics, this bill ensures that students will be less prepared to engage with the realities of the world. Additionally, threatening university funding based on ideological standards is a blatant attempt to force institutions into political submission.

I am a teacher, and this legislation sends a clear message that educators are not trusted to do their jobs. My undergraduate degree is from a private university in Ohio. I have postgraduate degrees from two different public universities in Ohio. Higher education is an opportunity to learning critical thinking skills that are crucial for living and working in society. Faculty should not be restricted from talking about "controversial" topics or be forced to present "both sides" of an issue. Ohio is going to lose students and talented members of the workforce because of this harmful legislation.

Please consider my testimony and oppose SB 1.

Respectfully,
Trinity A. Lescallett