

	<h2 style="text-align: center;">HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE</h2>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Witness Form</p>

Today's Date 02/09/2025

Name: Elise Bailey

Address: 354 Charring Cross Drive, Munroe Falls, OH
44262

Telephone: (234) 303-7574

Organization Representing: Self

Testifying on Bill Number: Ohio SB 1

Testimony: Verbal X Written Both

Testifying As: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Are you a Registered Lobbyist? Yes X No

Special Requests: _____

February 9, 2025

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 Elise Bailey. I taught at the community college level for over 10 years. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6 for the following reasons and more:

1. **Silencing Faculty Advocacy** – By banning faculty strikes, the bill strips educators of their ability to fight for fair wages, better working conditions, and academic freedom, weakening the quality of education.
2. **Undermining Collective Bargaining** – Limiting faculty unions' negotiating power diminishes shared governance, making it harder to protect academic integrity and faculty rights.
3. **State-Controlled Trustee Training** – Mandating board training through the Chancellor risks imposing a political agenda on institutional leadership, eroding local decision-making.
4. **Politicizing Higher Education** – Increased state influence over curricula and governance threatens institutional autonomy, pushing political priorities over academic expertise.
5. **Weakening Diversity & Inclusion** – Restricting DEI initiatives harms efforts to create an inclusive learning environment, reducing student preparedness for a diverse world.
6. **Censoring Controversial Topics** – Fear of political backlash could pressure faculty to avoid critical discussions on race, history, and social issues, stifling academic freedom and critical thinking.
7. **Increased Brain Drain for Ohio**-- such silencing and threatening of rigorous academic debate and faculty protections will likely send talented faculty and students running to other states. We cannot afford to lose the best and the brightest in Ohio to further a political agenda!

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this destructive bill. True education requires rigorous debate where critical thinking skills can be honed, not shut down by a political party looking to protect its one-sided views of topics without inspection.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify. My witness form is also included.

Sincerely,
Elise Bailey
Munroe Falls, Ohio