

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

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony. My name is Minna Zelch and I live in rural NE Ohio. I've worked in education for over 25 years and hold degrees from Washington University and the Harvard Graduate School of Education. I am also a taxpayer and mother to a current Ohio public school student and an Ohio public school graduate. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

When our family moved to Ohio our children were very young, yet I was excited in part because our new state had a reputation of having top-notch public universities. This legislation will destroy that reputation. Fewer students will want to come here, fewer students will want to stay here, and fewer professors will want to teach here. This legislation is an embarrassment to our state and a slap in the face of everyone involved in higher education in Ohio.

I've already lost one child due to bills passed by the Ohio legislature and I'm about to lose another one. My son and I visited 5 Ohio colleges last year and found three that he liked. Now that this legislation has been reintroduced, he is refusing to even consider any school in Ohio. Like his sister, he would rather go into debt that attend school here and I'm hearing the same thing from many current Ohio high school students.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this destructive bill.