

**Ohio Senate Higher Education Committee Hearing on SB1
Feb. 11, 2025**

**Written testimony of Emily Troiano
Ohio citizen, concerned parent**

Hello. I am writing in opposition to SB1, which is a terrible and vague bill that not only has the government completely overstepping its boundaries but would be economically devastating for our state. Ohio's state schools have incredible reputations now. If this passes, that reputation would go down the toilet. These degrees will become a laughingstock.

Our best students would flee the state. The brain drain — already happening by leaps and bounds here — would accelerate. So much for this vision of Ohio becoming a STEM hub or a desirable destination for businesses interested in innovation. We need to future-proof our state, and that will not happen if this bill is allowed to ruin our previously esteemed public universities.

I grew up in Florida and went to the University of Florida. I know full well the discussion happening with corporations and recruiters about the soon-to-be-completely meaninglessness of Florida state degrees. Why in the world is Ohio looking to Florida to lead the way in how to educate our youngest and most promising citizens?

Lastly, I am a parent of an early high schooler and a middle schooler. These are smart, innovative kids who will someday contribute mountains to their employers, their communities and their state. I've been watching these proceedings closely with them, and depending on the outcome, I would actively discourage them from continuing their education here and staying in Ohio after graduation to build their lives, though it would break my heart. They deserve better than this terribly conceived bill. They deserve a state that looks forward, not backward.

I urge you to vote no on this economically devastating and reputation ruining bill.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.