

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify in opposition to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6. My name is Terry Susskind.

I'm an Ohioan and often a proud one. I was born in Columbus, grew up in Cleveland and after attending the University of Cincinnati, met my husband, a UC law student. We raised two daughters who enjoyed a stellar public school education. Although they went elsewhere for undergraduate school, one returned for UC Medical School and the other who studied law in Texas later returned to Cincinnati with her husband and two children because they missed our Midwest lifestyle, our quality public education and, of course, being with family.

Now I have two grandchildren who are high school juniors looking toward college. So many choices. One, a top student was giving thought to Ohio State's Honors Program. One, also a good student and percussionist, was, of course, intrigued by the Ohio State Band. They have so much to offer as does Ohio which has a breadth of job opportunities, affordable housing, arts, sports, a welcoming culture.

If SB1 becomes law; if quality educators depart for greater professional and fewer restrictive opportunities; if vital research ends and the ratings of Ohio education are diminished; their parents will invest their higher education dollars accordingly. Their children, my grandchildren, will not come here. Their lives will be elsewhere. So much loss. Why?

My testimony speaks for all families now seeking the finest education and quality environment for their children and ask you to consider voting NO on this unnecessarily destructive bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Terry Susskind