

**Opponent Written-Only Testimony for SB 1
Senate Higher Education Committee
February 10th, 2025**

Harley J. D. Rubin, MSW, LSW

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

Thank you for reading my testimony.

My name is Harley Rubin (he/him or they/them pronouns), and I live in Cleveland Heights, Ohio. I am a healthcare social worker at MetroHealth and a board member of TransOhio, and I lead the Community Care Team of Cleveland Jewish Collective. (The views in this testimony are my own and do not represent these organizations). **I am writing to urge you all to oppose SB 1, the “Enact Advance Ohio Higher Education Act” that would ban any diversity, equity, and inclusion and “related topics” in higher education.**

As a social worker that completed my Master of Social Work at the Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel School of Case Western University, and former MSW Student Representative for the Ohio chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, I am deeply concerned with social work education and the future of our profession. This bill would attack social work programs in Ohio. SB 1 would prohibit social work education from addressing the core values of social work, specifically Social Justice, and adhering to the Council of Social Work Education (CSWE) standards for accreditation. **SB 1 would risk the accreditation of our state’s social work programs and threaten the licensure and future competence of social workers in Ohio.**

[The CSWE 2022 Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards \(EPAS\)](#) clearly includes diversity, equity, and inclusion and “related subjects.” Social work programs must adhere to these standards to be accredited at the national level. Competency 3, “Engage Anti-Racism, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ADEI) in Practice,” explicitly states that social work education must include understanding the full spectrum of diverse experiences and identities of the populations we work with, and striving for equity and inclusion in our work. It is an imperative to serve all populations.

I would like to ask you directly: Do you value the social workers in this state and their work to support Ohioans in many different fields across our workforce? Is your intention as a politician to shut down social work education programs across the state and force students and faculty out of the state? Whether intentional or not, this bill would make accredited social work education in Ohio impossible and decimate social work in Ohio.

I moved to Ohio from Baltimore specifically to attend my master's program here, and I would not have done that if not for the accreditation of this school. My alma mater, Case Western Reserve University, a highly respected social work degree program, could be dismantled entirely or made to produce incompetent social workers that would not be able to find employment or contribute meaningfully to society. I am a Licensed Social Worker and registered voter who wants to stay in Ohio, keep my job supporting diverse populations at an esteemed hospital, and ensure the future of my profession.

I ask that you please consider my testimony and urge you to vote NO on SB 1.

Thank you again for considering my testimony in this important political decision.

Harley J. D. Rubin, MSW, LSW