

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 Dawn Riggs. I am an adjunct professor at Hocking College, and a retired public schools teacher with 34 years of experience. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

SB 1 is very simply an attack on the institution of higher education. Its "controversial beliefs and policies" language would make it impossible to accurately teach about the Holocaust, as it would disallow an instructor to correct a student with misinformation who says it didn't happen. It would affect medical students' learning about differing outcomes in different communities. In higher education, there is no higher calling than the free exchange of information and ideas, and this bill hamstring professors and students alike in service of some nebulous attack against information. College professors are not indoctrinating our students - in my classroom, we have thoughtful discussions about topics. Students learn to support their views with facts and research, and that critical thinking is what we need more of in this world.

Our nation depends on our young people, who will be the ones to innovate and discover solutions to the world's challenges. SB 1 dishonestly attacks those who have chosen to serve in public education. Reviling our underpaid instructors is a bridge too far, and will have detrimental consequences to our country.

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

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Sincere regards,
Dawn Riggs
Logan, OH