

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Rowan Ratvasky. I am a third-year college undergraduate student. I was born and raised in Columbus, Ohio. Both of my parents are educators, and they taught me to love and respect my fellow Ohioans. For that, I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

Growing up in Columbus, I have seen firsthand the wealth gap and education differences in k-12 schools, across the metropolitan area. The education and opportunities that our children receive across our state are not equal. Some students graduate without the means to attend university as they need more assistance compared to others. Scholarships and DEI programs help bolster our fellow Ohioans, not hurt them. As public servants, it is your responsibility to create opportunities for Ohioans, not dismantle what little is available.

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

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.