

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

My name is Lily Plaugher. I am a 4th year student at the University of Cincinnati studying Environmental Engineering. I am incredibly strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

Over the course of my education, I have relied on UC's unobstructed access to research based, factual information regarding the impact of pollution on the environment, the EPA and legal regulations, historical context for current legislation protecting the environment, all which were relayed by qualified professors. The basis of my, and my classmates, education is entirely dependent on the ability to make definitive statements about indisputable facts, all of which are certifiable through repeated experiments, research, historical context, and mathematical calculations.

This bill is not only an attack on the community of UC that works hard to encourage diversity, equity, and inclusion, by supporting groups that have historically faced systemic roadblocks preventing them from having a fair opportunity to pursue a higher education, it is also an attack on our access to science. Preventing indisputable information from being shared in fundamental core classes destroys our freedom to create informed and factually supported opinions, and promotes the spread of misinformation and baseless claims, which are incredibly dangerous to any scientific field. To support this bill is to support the suppression of information to the general public and to denounce democracy, as this bill is disturbingly similar to the censorship in place in fascist governments

I implore you to consider my testimony and vote **NO** on this extremist, harmful, and destructive bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Lily Plaugher
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