

SB1 and HB6 remind me of the past when SB5 was voted on by Ohioans with a resounding NO and showed Governor Kasich that Ohioans were not interested in becoming a Right to Work state. This now feels like the start of going after each one of those unions one by one, beginning with higher education. Dressing it up as a DEI bill does not change the fact that Ohioans know that we want our unions because it is better economically and, in many fields, safer.

I am not originally from Ohio. I moved here to teach in my position, and I have now been here for nearly eighteen years. I am raising my children here and I consider this my home. This bill will change that. Passing this bill will take away the safe space in my classroom to learn because if there is ever a time a student disagrees, and they will, I will be under fire- and I teach math! But this is not just about my job and how it will strip away my tenure that I have earned and worked for. It is also about my daughters. I won't encourage them to go to college here. Why would I? I don't want you, as politicians, to decide what they should learn. Nor do I want their classmates who may disagree with their professors to decide. I want the content experts, the professors who have made it their life's work to study their subject and educate others, to teach my daughters. These professors are not indoctrinating students, they are teaching them how to think. Period. They are teaching factual information, plain and simple, and that is what I want for my children. If this is what you want for Ohio, you need to seriously consider the consequences. You have more colleges per capita than any other state in the country and yet you are going to stifle the educational process and drive out of state and international students away from coming here. You are going to drive in state students out of state and they may or may not come back home after graduation. That doesn't sound very economically savvy, especially considering this bill has a lot of upfront administrative costs to implement for colleges as well that students will likely have to pay for.

I urge you to vote NO. This has disastrous consequences economically for Ohio.