

Ohio Senate Testimony  
February 10, 2025  
Megan Crow Brauer

Chairman, members of the committee, my name is Megan Crow Brauer, and I am a PhD student and undergraduate instructor in Ohio, as well as the parent of nonbinary high school junior looking at colleges. I am here today to express my opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I love Ohio and I have received college degrees from fine institutions of higher education in Ohio, including an MBA from Cleveland State University, and an MA from University of Akron, where I am currently pursuing a PhD. Ohio is a state of fantastic options for higher education, but SB1 would severely weaken our state's position and actively work against public higher education in Ohio.

As a graduate assistant teaching undergraduate students and looking to become a full-time faculty member, I believe this bill would impede my ability to educate students on some of the most pressing issues of our time. It is an insult to think that as an instructor I would be indoctrinating students based on a liberal agenda. My job which I take very seriously is to discuss with students issues related to civil rights, gender diversity, etc. in order to promote critical analysis and stimulate students' ability to think for themselves. After all, this is what I believe to be a cornerstone of higher education.

As a parent, I believe that my nonbinary child deserves to attend a college where they feel safe. My child is a high school junior looking at colleges in Ohio and is concerned about attending a public school because of potential repercussions should this bill pass. When SB1 was announced, they asked me, "Mom, will I be safe?" I know many of you might not understand what it means to be non-binary or gender fluid. I can't say that I completely understand or relate. But I don't have to. I can tell you I love my child, as I'm sure all of you feel about your children.

If this bill passes, it will make Ohio less attractive to students, graduates, and instructors alike. I am sure we would see many children pivoting from public to private universities in Ohio. I urge this committee to consider the long-term consequences of this legislation and vote no on Senate Bill 1. I love Ohio, but I also love education, and I love my children and my Kennedy above all else. I refuse to sit by and see my state impact my future and my child's future by actively dismantling academic freedom in higher education.