

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify. My name is Lexi Deet, and I am **strongly opposed** to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

I was born and raised in Cleveland, OH and attended Ohio University. I believe in freedom of speech and education. I have two Bachelor's degrees and have taught at the Middle and High School levels. A good education is a well rounded one, where questions are encouraged. Refusing to answer difficult questions will not stop them from being asked. I firmly believe that education is the best way to advance society and that professors who have devoted their lives to teaching are the best people to decide the most effective way to pass on their expertise. This bill will only serve to chill discourse and hamper learning. This is a dangerous precedent curbing constitutional rights and seriously threatening higher education as we know it.

I ask you to consider my testimony and the value of freedom of speech and **vote NO** on this extremist, destructive bill.