

## Higher Education Committee Testimony for SB 1 and HB 6

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

Thank you for listening to me give my testimony as an Ohioan and as an adult student currently enrolled in the Ohio State University. My name is Andrew Robert DeVore and I strongly oppose Senate Bill 1 and House Bill 6.

I am a student at the Ohio State University, a public institution that would be directly affected by these bills, and I am enrolled in the College of Social Work which will be negatively impacted by these bills. I re-enrolled in school to help my fellow Ohioans, to improve all of our lives, and most simply to be a helper like Mr. Rogers always taught us to look for. The Ohio State University has one of the best Social Work programs in the United States, these bills would gut the University, the social work program, and dozens of other programs.

I believe these bills will absolutely cripple the power house that is OSU, and all of our great public colleges and universities. How many professors and doctors does OSU and our other colleges employ? How much of our economy is tied directly to our great centers of learning? Do you think that professors and doctors will really come to a place where they have less legal protection to keep their jobs? They will go elsewhere. They will leave and take their grants and research with them. They will take their money with them. These bills will harm Ohio, and make it less prosperous in both the short and long term.

These bills claims that they want to open a choir of different and unique voices, but by taking away the legal protection of those voices, you have instead made it an echo chamber of those who are safe and securing, who will ignore uncomfortable truths about what is happening outside of their communities.

Thank you for listening to my testimony, I may just be one man speaking to you but know I represent thousands of voices that do not have the luxury of being able to take time out of their day to tell you how important it is that we combat these dangerous and short-sighted bills.