

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Frank Robinson. I am a research psychologist with a background in human factors psychology. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

I collaborate with many university professors for my job and have had several excellent mentors during my education. Faculty members do not teach based on partisan bias. They teach based on their honest assessment of current research in their fields. In some cases the science is genuinely muddy and in others the facts are clear; mandating that every side be presented simply because someone has manufactured a controversy to suit their own ends is disingenuous. These professors are experts in their respective fields and should be trusted to teach as such. This bill's requirements to post plans and other information simply open faculty to harassment from political activists acting in bad faith to undermine facts they disagree with.

Substituting political edicts for professional judgment does a disservice to higher education in our state and will make us less attractive and competitive to future students. Limiting academic and professional freedom will make it harder to attract the best and brightest to teach in our universities. The effects of this bill will make Ohio less attractive to the businesses and research enterprises that help drive our economy by limiting the pool of qualified graduates and subject matter experts.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this harmful and shortsighted bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.