

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 Leo Fenton. I am a queer, trans, and disabled Miami University student testifying as a private citizen. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

As an executive in a student organization that would be classified under DEI, a student who would not be in university without the existence of DEI, and most importantly, a diverse human myself- this would directly harm me, those close to me, and anyone who is like me.

It is not the government's job to force universities into their opinions on "controversial beliefs or policies", or prohibit and destroy diversity, equity, and inclusion in higher education.

This bill would destroy necessary parts of universities that are necessities for the success and equal opportunity of all students enrolled in these institutions. It would destroy majors and minors, degrees that these students are studying for years to obtain. It would destroy classes, curriculum, and important knowledge that everyone needs to know before going into the real world- which is as diverse as university is, and should be.

If you want everyone to be treated equally and with no advantages OR disadvantages, then you need to disregard this bill because it is going to do the complete opposite. It will discriminate against those most marginalized and pin so many disadvantages onto them, it will make it difficult to get through university to graduation.

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

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.