

Written testimony in opposition of SB1 “Enact Advance Ohio Higher Education Act”

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 Carol McLeister. I am a Masters Level Social Worker and community member. I worked for many years in the medical field and now with the older Ohioans. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

I am opposed to this bill because it threatens academic freedom, diversity, and student rights in Ohio’s universities. This bill is harmful to students, faculty, and the integrity of higher education. Social Work recognizes that each individual is influenced by biological, psychological, spiritual, and environmental factors. One cannot provide holistic or competent care without considering each of these aspects. Caring for people’s health and well-being is not done in a vacuum. Ohio’s universities should be doing all in their power to produce graduates with a depth of knowledge and critical thinking skills. Legislating restrictions on teaching and discussion of foreign policy, diversity, inequity, immigration policy, and historical events will produce social workers, medical professionals, teachers and many other professionals ill-equipped for the reality of providing care and service to a diverse America. Ohio students deserve better.

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

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

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