

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

Thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony today. My name is Miriam Matteson. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

This bill is a solution looking for a problem. University classrooms and campuses are some of the most intellectually diverse public spaces in our society. Believing that a legislature, (whose gerrymandered make-up is hardly a shining beacon to intellectual diversity) must pass a law to advance intellectual diversity is both uninformed and insulting to the students, staff, and faculty of our outstanding Ohio public institutions. It suggests wrongly that those of us engaged in education are not constantly revisiting established knowledge and exploring new knowledge through our reading, writing, teaching, and research. In fact, our classrooms are already full of rigorous debate and discussion of issues within our fields. Our faculty and students already challenge each other to understand, defend, and provide data-driven evidence for the stances they take.

It makes me sad that the political polarization in this country is so great that the out-of-state authors of this bill are manipulating the Ohio legislature to compel Ohio's institutions of higher education to allow dangerous, inaccurate, and false positions to perpetuate under the guise of "intellectual diversity". I long for the days when an educated society was seen not as a political danger, but rather a noble and beneficial goal to work for.

This bill is unnecessary government overreach and treads dangerously close to censorship and suppression of demonstrably proven accepted science and fact.

Therefore, I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this destructive bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share my testimony.