

Testimony of Julie S. Field, PhD
Before the Senate Higher Education Committee
Senator Kristina Roegner, Chair
February 11th, 2025

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Ingram, and Members of the Higher Education Committee:

My name is Dr. Julie Field and I am a Professor of Anthropology at Ohio State University, where I have taught for eighteen years. I do not represent Ohio State University, but rather am submitting testimony as a private citizen in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I talk to students every single day. They are appalled by the blatant disregard for their interests as stated in SB1. The bill will discourage the enrollment of White, Black, Asian, Latino, Indigenous, and foreign students to universities in the state of Ohio. They will seek educational opportunities in other states, taking their enrollments and funds with them.

As an instructor, I can provide witness testimony that SB1 will obfuscate the breadth and depth of knowledge provided by a university education in Ohio. Specifically, SB 1 will prohibit the full study of academic disciplines (including medicine, history, biology, psychology, and education) by denigrating established scientific fact to mere "controversial beliefs". The anti-intellectualism and censorship that is outlined in SB 1 is a disservice to students and will limit their education and advancement.

As a professor, the requirement of post-tenure review is a threat to the tenure system, which for generations has protected free-speech and free-thought in academic systems. Tenure allows me to study a topic more deeply, and to explore and make discoveries. These results are transmitted directly to my classroom. My students are the greatest beneficiaries of my tenure. To require post-tenure review places an unnecessary burden on faculty and the university administration, and the end result will be the loss of faculty, who will leave for job security and research freedom elsewhere, rather than spend their time writing annual reviews. There already is an annual review process, which further makes SB 1 redundant and wasteful.

I encourage all that read my words to reject SB 1. It is a harmful bill that is too costly for Ohioans.

Sincerely,

Dr. Julie Field