

February 9, 2025

Testimony in Opposition to SB 1:

Chairman, members of the committee:

My name is Michelle Weber, and I am a parent of a college student in Ohio as well as a parent of a high schooler who is considering colleges she will attend. I would like to express my opposition to Senate Bill 1, which appears to be a repackaged attempt to pass the same harmful policies that Ohioans already rejected when Senate Bill 83 failed in the last General Assembly.

Ohioans made their voices clear when we spoke out against Senate Bill 83. Students, faculty, business leaders, and concerned citizens from across the state came together to oppose an unnecessary and politically motivated attack on higher education. The bill failed because it did not reflect the needs or desires of Ohio's students, educators, business and community leaders. Yet, instead of listening to the public, legislators have repackaged the same restrictive policies into Senate Bill 1, disregarding the overwhelming opposition that led to Senate Bill 83's defeat.

This bill, if passed, will undermine the education that Ohioans receive, and will harm our ability to retain intelligent, thoughtful, and empathetic leaders in the future. If Ohio lawmakers are truly committed to improving education, they should focus on policies that strengthen our institutions, not ones that restrict academic freedom and force politically motivated oversight. The people of Ohio have already spoken, and we have rejected this kind of interference in higher education. I urge you to listen to us once again and vote against Senate Bill 1.

Thank you,

Michelle Weber

Bay Village, OH