

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify on this issue in writing . My name is Jacob Koch and I am a doctoral student in music at Bowling Green State University. **I am strongly opposed** to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

If this bill passes, I will be forced to consider leaving the state of Ohio in order to continue my studies in a productive learning environment and I believe many others will do the same.

I believe that Ohio Senate Bill 1 (SB 1) would truly **devastate** Ohio's great public colleges and universities. The regulation of thought is something out of a dystopian novel, but it is unfortunately very close to a reality. How am I supposed to trust the education I am receiving if my teachers cannot freely express ideas?

This bill would heavily restrict the teaching of "controversial" subjects, ban most diversity policies and programs, place entire departments, majors, and courses at risk, gut workers' rights, ban tenure...and more. **SB 1 will cost us** students, professors, tuition dollars, and countless jobs. Students WILL leave, teachers WILL leave, universities would suffer from the loss of tuition dollars and many jobs will be lost. So many people would lose the support they need to continue with their education if this bill passes.

Here are some **rebuttals to the main proposed changes in the bill.**

- **University Syllabi** need not be made public, they are of the concern of teachers and students.
- **Controversial belief and policies:** Defines controversial belief or policy as "any belief or policy that is the subject of political controversy, including issues such as climate policies, electoral politics, foreign policy, diversity, equity, and inclusion programs, immigration policy, marriage, or abortion." How are students supposed to learn if they can't discuss the world? Where does political controversy end?
- **Requiring that students reach their own conclusions without challenge is counter to the whole point of LEARNING.**
- **This bill contains NUMEROUS extreme requirements that impose restrictions on teachers and students rights to free speech and protest. Ex. You can't ban teachers from striking, they have the right to do so... its NOT called the "BILL OF PRIVILEGES".**

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

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in writing.

-Jacob Koch 2/9/25