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

Thank you for allowing me to testify. My name is Angie Kim and I am a nurse practitioner who works directly with the college student population at a student health center. I am writing to express my strong opposition for SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

This bill would heavily restrict teachings on important concepts in various areas of study, specifically in the health sciences field. As a healthcare provider, I have received essential training and education specific to caring for marginalized populations and the impact of socioeconomic disparities and implicit bias on healthcare. Not only has this helped develop more empathetic and culturally component providers, but it has ultimately reduced poor health outcomes. Healthcare professionals need to understand how race, gender, class, and cultural backgrounds can affect health outcomes. When we fail to consider these factors, we risk perpetuating the very health disparities we're trying to address. This bill would directly target the appropriate language and concepts necessary to proactively teach any health professional student the importance of health disparities of a diverse patient population. To be frank, the very lives of our patients would be jeopardized with the actions of this bill, and supporting this bill would be unethical and dangerous.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this harmful and discriminatory bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,
Angie J. Kim, MSN, FNP-C