



# HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

# Witness Form

Today's Date 2/9/2025

Name: Kathleen McGorray

Address: 1077 Maple Cliff Drive, Lakewood 44107

Telephone: 216-269-2690

Organization Representing: \_\_\_\_\_

Testifying on Bill Number: SB1

Testimony:          Verbal     x     Written          Both

Testifying As: \_\_\_\_\_ Proponent        x   Opponent      \_\_\_\_\_ Interested Party

Are you a Registered Lobbyist?        Yes   x   No

Special Requests: \_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_

TESTIMONY:

Chairman, members of the Committee, my name is Kathleen McGorray and I am a career Ohio educator. I stand firmly against Senate Bill 1 because it undermines the fundamental principles of academic freedom, inclusion, and critical thinking - principles essential to a thriving democracy. It represents an unprecedented overreach into higher education - undermining academic freedom, faculty governance, and the ability of institutions to prepare students for a globalized world.

The bill's attack on DEI is an attack not only on higher education, but on the values of fairness and opportunity that should define Ohio. By restricting how universities address diversity and banning

Written testimony is a public record and maybe posted on the Ohio Senate's website

faculty from engaging with so-called “controversial” topics, this bill ensures that students will be LESS prepared to engage with the realities of the world. Additionally, threatening university funding based on ideological standards is a blatant attempt to force institutions into political submission. This is NOT how we build a strong, inclusive, and forward-thinking Ohio. I implore you to listen to the voices of students, educators, and community members and to reject this dangerous piece of legislation.

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