

**Opponent Testimony for Senate Bill 1
Higher Education Committee
February 10, 2025**

Colleen Brown, Parent, Grandparent, & Retired Registered Nurse

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

Thank you for considering my written testimony in regards to Senate Bill 1. My name is Colleen A. Brown, and I am a lifelong Ohio resident and grandparent to several children attending Ohio public school. I am testifying in opposition to Senate Bill 1 because it threatens the integrity of higher education and limits the opportunities available to my grandchildren.

Further, as a grandparent, I want my grandchildren to receive the best education possible, one that prepares them to think critically, engage in meaningful discourse, and navigate an increasingly diverse world. I want this type of education to remain available to them in the state of Ohio. Because this bill seeks to inject political oversight into university curriculums, it strips institutions of their ability to provide a robust and independent education. The elimination of DEI programs sends a message that Ohio does not value inclusion and equal opportunity. I want Ohio to be a place where my grandchildren and their children can receive a top-tier education and find meaningful careers, but this bill jeopardizes that possibility.

I am testifying today because I believe Senate Bill 1 because as a grandparent, I am deeply concerned about the viability of my children's future in the state of Ohio. Senate Bill 1 will undoubtedly diminish the quality of Ohio Higher Education.

Please, Vote No Senate Bill 1 while it is still being considered by the Senate Higher Education committee.

Thank you for your time in reading and considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Colleen Brown