

Testimony of Martin McKew

Before the Senate Higher Education Committee

Senator Kristina Roegner, Chair

February 9th, 2025

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Ingram, and Members of the Higher Education Committee:

My name is Martin McKew, and I am a current PhD student of History at the Ohio State University. I do not represent OSU, but rather am submitting testimony as a private citizen in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I'm a Columbus native, and have the privilege of having completed most of my education within the state of Ohio. The University of Dayton and the Ohio State University provided me with an excellent education for which I am very grateful. They enabled me to more fully understand my state, our nation, my personal interests, and the world itself—in all its human aspects.

Senate Bill 1 would prevent me from having the understanding of our world that I have today. To be able to teach young people to question and comprehend knowledge, educators cannot be subjected to intimidation, especially when it constitutes a constant threat on their livelihood. A complete comprehension of the world around us must be formed within a diverse and open classroom. Senate Bill 1 does not make this possible.

My peers, my mentors and I, are in opposition to Senate Bill 1. We aren't the only people this would affect. You would be stifling all future generations of Ohioans—anyone who would need to become a student. Senate Bill 1 does a disservice—and actively harms—not just all educators, but all students that Ohio has and will have.

I urge you to oppose Senate Bill 1 for the sake of these future students.