

February 9, 2025

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

Thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony. My name is Emily Jackson. I am a graduate of the University of Cincinnati, the mother of a high school junior and a freshman at an Ohio university. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

I reviewed the Ohio Legislative Service Commission analysis of Senate Bill 1 and have the following concerns.

First, the existing funding model is based on students completing courses and degrees at the universities. These measurements are data based, logical, and efficient. Senate Bill 1 proposes funding penalties for failing to comply with “intellectual diversity, and other concepts” (page 3). “Intellectual diversity and other concepts” are subjective measures and a moving goal dependent on who is in office and who is reviewing the concepts.

Second, page 5 of the bill mentions collective bargaining. Teachers in Ohio have been unionized since 1938. Collective bargaining ensures that teachers can focus on providing quality education without fear of unjustified attacks on their integrity, such as the references to indoctrinating students mentioned in SB 1. Weakening union protections will lead to fewer staff at our universities, and subsequently student enrollment and Ohio residents.

Lastly, pages 6 and 7 of the bill analysis state university staff must post detailed syllabi on the public website. This idea is frequently mentioned at K-12 public school meetings, school lobbyists and parent groups. They claim it is to protect children from sensitive subjects. However, Senate Bill 1 is directed at adults, who can be drafted, who can vote, who are responsible for their tuition costs. They are not children who need “protection.” They are tax paying citizens. Requiring university staff to post detailed syllabi publicly also imposes unnecessary administrative burdens, diverting time and resources away from teaching and research.

Legislators are not educators and should not set curriculum restrictions. That is obvious as the bill states students should take an American civic literacy class (page 6). This is done at the high school level, a standard already set by the Ohio Department of Education and Ohio Revised Code 3313.618.

SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6 are overreaching legislation. I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this extremist bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.