

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

Thank you for reading my testimony. My name is Jacob Bloch, and I am a practicing psychologist and parent in the state of Ohio. I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 1 because educators, not politicians, are most qualified to guide our higher education system.

SB1 will weaken our ability to attract top researchers and educators, and thereby, our state as a whole. By limiting free speech and tenure protections, our institutions will drive away talented faculty and struggle to recruit the best or brightest. It will similarly hamper our ability to attract top students and our ability to give them a holistic education, thereby lowering the caliber and preparedness of students who graduate and enter the workforce in Ohio.

Our legislators are tasked with supporting and strengthening our communities. To do so requires investment in higher education and keeping political interference away from our universities. The people of Ohio have already rejected this kind of meddling in higher education with Senate Bill 83. I urge you to listen to them again by voting against Senate Bill 1. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Respectfully,  
Jacob Bloch, Ph.D.