

**Opponent Testimony for SB1
Senate Higher Education Committee
February 9, 2024**

Olyvia Brown, BS

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Olyvia Brown (She/Her),

I am a resident of Northeastern Ohio, employed full-time at a non-profit providing social services. I am also currently enrolled at the Mandel School at Case Western Reserve, where I am on track to earn my Master of Social Work.

I am opposed to the passage of SB 1. I am writing to request your vote **of No on SB1**. I believe this initiative will harm the most vulnerable of residents in Ohio. Residents of Ohio who require social services and care will suffer a great deal if this bill passes as it will lead to additional loss of prospective social workers. We want an Ohio that is both prosperous and humane. I have become aware in my graduate studies and role of working in the community that the need for social workers is immense. Should SB1 move on to legislation, the impact on Ohioans, college students and the field of Social Work will be harmed tremendously due to colleges losing CSWE accreditation. The criteria will not be met for accreditation if SB1 as currently written passes, this will translate into gifted minds who want to make a difference in their communities here in Ohio with no option but to leave the state. Resulting in the loss of young and skillful adults, increasing the burden on the remaining social workers who are already in short supply, and a deficit in care for our most vulnerable populations. I ask that you please consider my testimony and vote no on SB1.

I would like to thank the committee for taking the time to carefully consider my plea.