Opponent Testimony for Senate Bill 1

My name is Grace Johnecheck and I am a biochemistry graduate student at Ohio State. Today I do not represent OSU, but rather am submitting testimony as a private citizen in opposition to Senate Bill 1. I am concerned that the bill will limit the ability and willingness of professors and graduate students to freely discuss controversial topics. Our universities should be at the forefront of addressing controversial issues that affect our citizens. If we restrict the ability of professors to teach on controversial issues, we will be doing our students a disservice by not allowing open discussion about important topics. Also, the reporting mechanisms proposed in this report seem that they will easily lead to witch hunts against professors by students who don't like their grades or even outside groups targeting professors for their perceived ideology. In many ways, this is the exact opposite of the free speech and debate that proponents of this Bill claim to desire.

I ask the committee to please oppose Senate Bill 1.

Thank you,

Grace Johnecheck

Ohio State Graduate Student