

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Amala Ambati. I am a physician (MD) and hold a master's degree in public health (MPH) in Epidemiology. I completed my medical training at the University of Toledo College of Medicine and Life Sciences (UTCOM) in 2017. I then went on to complete my Internal Medicine residency training at the same institution where I also served as a Chief Resident. I am now a practicing Rheumatologist in Toledo, Ohio.

I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

I grew up in Michigan. However, as I was looking to pursue my medical education, I learned that many Ohio medical schools had exemplary programs. They offered robust medical education that had depth and diversity. For this reason, when I was accepted to the University of Toledo College of Medicine and Life Sciences (UTCOM), I jumped at the chance to attend and become an Ohioan. My training was incredible, I was able to learn about the complex pathophysiology of medical disease as well as social determinants of health. I was taught by amazing tenured faculty that valued my education and my future. Without a doubt, my medical education prepared me to be the well-rounded and competent physician I am today. My education allows me to care for patients from all walks of life and to understand that social and economic factors often intersect with health.

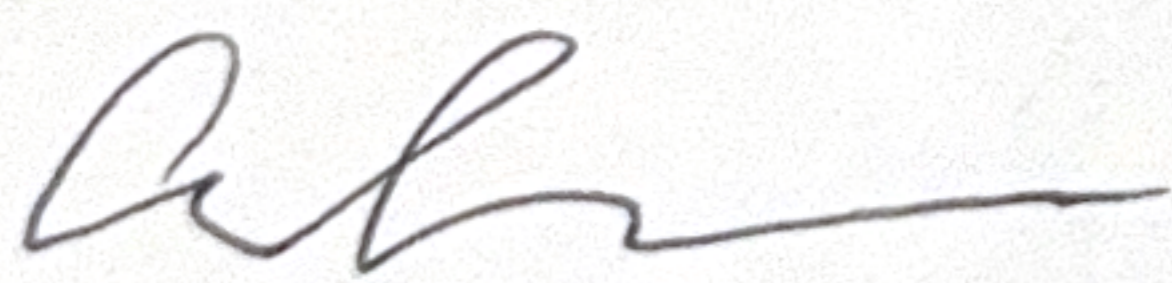
I strongly oppose SB 1 because I believe it will greatly weaken the quality of education that is offered at Ohio's top Universities and Colleges. Quality medical education is dependent on teaching future doctors about the latest data and scientific understanding of many health topics. These lessons are not based on personal beliefs or opinions but are instead formed from rigorous scientific scholarship and peer reviewed research.

If SB 1 and HB 6 are passed, I know that the caliber of education I received as a medical student will no longer be available in Ohio and that future students will undoubtedly choose to go to other states to complete their medical education.

In addition, many medical students choose to continue post-graduate training and medical practice in the state of their medical school. From my graduating class at UTCOM in 2017, 43% of us remained in Ohio to do our post-graduate residency training and many of us continue to practice in Ohio to this day. By becoming less appealing to students seeking higher education, we will certainly lose out on retaining excellent physicians in Ohio.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this extremely harmful and destructive bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.



Amala Ambati, MD, MPH