

William Driscoll  
February 9, 2025

**Subject: Strong Opposition to Senate Bill 1**

Dear Committee,

I am saddened and frustrated by SB1. Five years ago, I came from Oregon to Columbus to work as an instructor of English at a community college. I have always told my students how happy I was that I made this decision—mostly because I felt supported by my institution (and quite honestly) the State of Ohio itself. Seeing the Ohio State Legislature going out of its way to propose a bill aimed at caricaturing and demeaning educators is hurtful.

This bill is a solution in search of a problem. I don't know a single faculty member pushing some radical political agenda. My colleagues and I focus on helping students succeed. Last term alone we increased our department's student success numbers by 7%. I only mention this because this is what we—the faculty—at this college care about. Each day, we think about how to ensure our students pass our classes so they can achieve their dreams and goals. Mostly, this entails helping students with the nuts and bolts of writing—how write an effective paragraph or prove a thesis.

When I read this bill, I am hurt, by what it implies about educators. Most of us entered this profession because we believe in the value of education, and we want to support students. Given the average salary of college instructors is already below the national average, it seems almost unnecessarily mean spirited to remove key professional protections. In particular, the bill's one-size-fits-all workload mandates seem to mis-imagine faculty as simply teaching and grading. For instance, alongside teaching English classes, I also spend 15+ hours a week ensuring that our CCP program provides a quality college education to over 3500 students. So, a mandate like this will quite obviously, adversely impact the students, it claims to want to support.

This bill creates unnecessarily hostile working conditions for educators who advocate for students both at the college and in the high school CCP programs. I urge you to oppose SB1 to ensure we can continue to do what we have always done—support our students.

Sincerely,

Will Driscoll, PhD.  
Assistant Professor of English