

Testimony of Paul Adams, Professor  
Before the Senate Higher Education Committee Senator Kristina Roegner, Chair  
Feb 9, 2025

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Ingram, and Members of the Higher Education Committee:

I am faculty at Owens Community College, where I have taught since 1993. I do not represent Owens Community College but rather am submitting testimony as a private citizen in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am writing as a dedicated Professor of Mathematics and Physics. I have spent over three decades teaching, conducting research, and trying to cultivate a passion for Mathematics and Science in my students. The next generation of Ohioans must be equipped with the knowledge and critical thinking skills necessary to navigate an increasingly complex world. I am deeply concerned about the proposed SB 1 legislation and the detrimental impact it will have on education, academic freedom, and the success of our students.

Senate Bill 1 undermines the very foundation of quality education and harms students. Senate Bill 1 jeopardizes faculty ability to maintain rigorous academic standards, restricts innovation in the classroom, and discourages talented educators from remaining in Ohio.

Senate Bill 1 if enacted will impose a students last agenda at Ohio's public colleges and universities.

This bill bars intellectual diversity in the classroom and among faculty.

This bill eliminates free speech protections for students, faculty, and staff.

This bill prevents an education of free, open, and rigorous intellectual inquiry to seek the truth.

This bill would enact political and ideological litmus tests in all hiring, promotion, and admissions decisions.

This bill harms students and tuition by eliminating the ability of faculty to strike.

This bill will impose a cancel culture mentality that exercises discriminatory faculty hiring practices, leading to a level of student intimidation across campus.

I want and am committed to ensuring that our colleges and universities offer the highest caliber education, where students are able to reach their full intellectual potential, where research and critical thinking are promoted, free speech is encouraged, where innovation is nurtured, and performance is rewarded. To be the best, we must be a meritocracy. I want Ohio's students to be educated, not indoctrinated via performative legislation that denies facts, history, and science.