

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

My name is Giovanni Crowley, I have lived in Ohio my entire life, graduated from The Ohio State University, and these days I work full-time and like to garden and take my dog for walks in my free time. I am strongly opposed to SB1 and its companion bill HB6.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion programs do not discriminate against anyone, as that would be going against their entire purpose. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion programs benefit everyone by ensuring that marginalized communities, who have historically been left behind, have access to higher education. Allowing marginalized communities to have clear paths to higher education allows for many worldviews to come together and spark conversation, perspective, and help open peoples' hearts and minds to concepts they may have never before given consideration to. I know that I personally benefited from Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion programs in my time at OSU, being able to see educators like myself gave me guidance and hope. And being able to meet many other students, faculty, and staff with ideas I did not myself have, helped me broaden my horizons and become a more well-rounded person. I am able to take the experiences I had with Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion programs into real-life situations and I am able to understand from the other side - which allows for better conflict resolution and makes it easier to function and get along in life, in general.

I humbly ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this harmful, discriminatory bill.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.