

Testimony of Amber Franklin, Ph.D., CCC-SLP

Before the Senate Higher Education Committee
Senator Kristina Roegner, Chair
February 9th, 2025

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

My name is Amber Franklin and I have been a professor of Speech Pathology and Audiology at Miami University for 13 years. I do not represent Miami University. I am submitting testimony as a private citizen in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I will focus on the syllabus posting requirement. This requirement mandates that instructors post their syllabi on a publicly accessible website. Each syllabus must be searchable by keywords and phrases; accessible from the main page of the university's web site by no more than three links; and accessible to the public *without requiring user registration of any kind*. It must include the instructor's professional qualifications and contact information, a list of topics and assigned readings, and the course schedule.

Absent from the list of requirements is information on the location and times of course meetings, information that is generally included on a syllabus. One must ask, why did you exclude this information from the syllabus posting requirement?

I believe this exclusion was a shallow attempt to protect students from what you know will be an inevitable consequence of this requirement—harassment from some members of the public who take issue with our course material. Please recognize that whatever harassment is visited upon faculty will undoubtedly impact students because faculty teaching conditions are student learning conditions.

Do you know that at most institutions, anyone from the general public can search course listings by semester, campus, department, and instructor? They can easily find the location, days, and times of class meetings. That is certainly true of my institution. In fact, I was able to find time and location information for courses at a number of institutions, even when my web browser was in incognito mode.

Ask yourselves, what would happen if a disgruntled member of the public found a syllabus online, as SB 1 requires, knew what day a certain topic would be taught, found the location and time of that class, and angrily paid the class, "a visit?"

Can you protect the students from the increased risk of experiencing possible harassment?
Can you protect the students from the increased risk of experiencing possible violence?

Vote no on Senate Bill 1!

If you refuse to vote no, at the very least, amend it to remove the syllabus requirement. This is a matter of student safety.