

## Testimony

Dear 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 Ron Warner, and I am retired from Procter and Gamble. I am a graduate of the University of Texas, Austin, with a BS degree in physics and a BA degree in math, and I have a PhD in Biophysics from the University of Rochester. I was an Instructor in the Physiology Department of Harvard University for 5 years, teaching physiology to medical and dental students as well as teaching advanced courses in membrane transport. I have two sons who both graduated from the University of Cincinnati.

I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6. Were this bill to pass, it would be highly detrimental to Ohio's public colleges and universities. It would likely result in students and professors leaving Ohio, not to mention a loss in tuition dollars and jobs. If you yourselves went to college, I am sure you did not suffer under the confining strictures of thought that this bill represents (among other ills of this bill). College is a time to learn critical thinking - to weigh the merits of opposing arguments and to incorporate them into coherent messages/beliefs. Challenging ideas and theories, both from class and peers, are a necessary component of a good education, forcing a student to face and thus incorporate or reject the ideas of the times. This bill does the opposite of this fundamental function of higher education.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this ill-considered, destructive bill that would shackle our fine colleges and universities and drive them to mediocrity.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Ron Warner