

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 Heather Spies, Toledo, District 9. I am a mother of a high school freshmen who wants to go to college when he graduates. I am giving this testimony to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 1 because it threatens academic freedom, diversity, and student rights in Ohio's universities.

Academic freedom is critical. Universities should be led by educators and scholars, not controlled by political agendas. This bill gives the state too much power over what is taught in classrooms.

In addition, this bill threatens DEI programs. DEI programs help ensure all students—especially marginalized communities—feel safe and supported on campus. Removing them will harm students of color, LGBTQ+ students, and others who rely on these resources.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this bill. This bill is harmful to students, faculty, and the integrity of higher education. Please stand for academic freedom and vote NO on SB 1.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.