

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

Thank you for accepting my written testimony. My name is Jennifer Martin Silva and I am a Cleveland resident. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

My first concern is the limit on freedom of speech, a basic right given to us in the US Constitution. As a college graduate who studied history, the ability to learn, analyze, debate, listen and open one's views to others is an integral part of the college experience. It is this that makes young adults better adults learning about our past. College is where students meet others and make friends who come from different backgrounds and experiences. It is not the state's place to put limits on learning.

Second, removing DEI takes opportunities away from all students. DEI is not new as it is the foundation of what this country was founded on - "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." DEI resulted in the 13th and 19th Amendments, Civil Rights Act, and the Americans With Disabilities Act to name just a few. You stop DEI, you stop the rights of all Americans.

Third, University staff have the right to negotiate work benefits and conditions. To take away this basic workers' right is also a violation of basic rights.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on these discriminatory and extreme bills.

Thank you again for accepting my written testimony.