

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 Nicole Cassidy and I am writing as a concerned citizen, an alumnae of the University of Toledo, and mother. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

I have been a resident of Ohio since August 2004. Prior to that I was a resident of Indiana. I came to Ohio to attend graduate school at the University of Toledo. Both my experiences at Ball State and Toledo gave me the critical thinking skills that I use every single day. Professors both conservative, moderate and liberal taught me in the areas of history, criminal justice and political science. I learned how to see each side's point of view and to make my own decisions. By placing limits on universities and colleges, you risk students losing critical thinking skills which are vital in today's economy. By limiting free speech you are also violating the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States. My daughter will be looking at colleges next year as a senior in high school. She is hoping to stay in the state of Ohio for college. However if this law is passed, she has indicated that she will look at a state that does not place limits and move to that state. By placing restrictions on colleges and universities, you risk Ohio a mass exodus to other states. Ohio needs these college students to stay in Ohio for the health of Ohio's economy.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this extreme bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Nicole Cassidy
Sylvania Ohio