

Opponent Testimony for SB1
Senate Higher Education Committee

February 10, 2025
Jennifer Flament, MD

Dear Kristina Roegner and the Senate Higher Education Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Jennifer Flament and I am a family physician and an educator of medical residents and medical students. I am writing in **strong opposition to SB1**. As a physician educates new primary care doctors, I am horrified at the proposals in SB1.

I have been teaching medical residents in family medicine for over 10 years, and both my parents have been teachers in middle and high schools for their entire careers. SB1 has horrified all the educators that I know and sent a chill down our spines. The proposal that the government would so invasively both monitor and micromanage education is unamerican. The founders of the United States built in clear checks and balances to prevent the government from having too much control into the lives of citizens and I believe they would consider SB1 to be a clear example of what they wanted to prevent.

As I look for my next faculty position, I am strongly considering leaving Ohio if SB1 is passed. There is a great need for primary care physicians in Ohio - and across the United States - but I don't want to be teaching in a draconian or Orwellian environment. Given my many years of experience, I am being recruited to multiple states. I had hoped to stay in Ohio, but SB1 would be clear government overreach and would make teaching here unpalatable and, frankly, unamerican.

The vague and overly broad language is clear government overreach into the autonomy of Ohio citizens and is a slippery slope. It is not the place of the government to control which departments or majors are available to students. The government should have no say in whether university staff or teachers are able to strike. Ohio legislators should not be mandating what experts are able to teach or say in their own classrooms, *especially* when it comes to the topics they have researched extensively and become experts in. Passage of this bill will lead many educators like me to choose relocation to other states that actually respect the constitution.

If you have any clarifying questions, please feel free to contact me. I hope that our legislators will do the right thing and **vote NO on SB1** to save the high quality of education that has always been the pride of Ohio.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Flament, MD
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