

## **Testimony against SB1**

My name is Elizabeth Schmidt. I am an educator and paramedic. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

This bill undermines basic academic freedoms, freedom of speech, and will make it impossible for educators to have conversations with students in any meaningful way. As an educator, I understand that students must see the connections between their own lives and the content they are learning. If we are not allowed to discuss these “controversial” topics, students will have the opportunity to engage meaningfully with their educational material. We also risk dangerous gaps in their knowledge. There is nothing we can teach that is separate from its social history. We can't fix social issues by banning experts from talking about them. We would waste years of research and funding by not allowing academics to be a reference for the topics they are experts on and we would waste students' education by trying to stop educators from engaging them on topics that matter to them.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this *extremist and destructive* bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.