

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

Thank you for reading my written testimonial today. My name is Jennifer DoVale. I am a former Pennsylvania resident that attended and graduated from a university in the state of Ohio. The diverse, forward thinking, and comprehensive education I received here was challenging and exciting. This education empowered me to become a permanent resident of Ohio and build my career here. This is why I am writing today to urge you to vote NO on SB 1 and its companion bill HB-6.

This bill's attack on DEI programs is not just an attack on higher education – it is an attack on the values of fairness and opportunity that should define our state. By restricting how universities address diversity and banning faculty from engaging from so-called “controversial” topics, this bill ensures that students will be less prepared to engage with the realities of the world. Additionally, threatening university funding based on ideological standards is a blatant attempt to force institutions into political submission. This is not how we build a strong, inclusive, and forward-thinking Ohio or how we encourage the next generation to choose to build their future in Ohio like I did. I implore this committee to listen to the voices of students, educators, and community members and to reject this dangerous piece of legislation.

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

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Best,

Jennifer DoVale