

Don Bruce

Columbus, Ohio

February 10, 2025

Subject: Do Not Damage Higher Education – Protect Faculty Rights and Collective Bargaining

Dear Committee,

I am an Air Force veteran who volunteered in 1991 to serve during the ongoing conflict with Iraq, and I am also an English Professor teaching in Ohio. I am writing you today as a concerned citizen and faculty member to strongly oppose Senate Bill 1 (SB1). This bill wrongly aims to punish faculty for having their own personal beliefs and ideological ideals. Republican legislators want to respond to that rightful use of free speech by gutting collective bargaining rights, limiting academic freedom, and imposing onerous workload and evaluation policies that harm students, faculty, and our institutions of higher learning.

By stripping faculty of workload, tenure protections, and retrenchment policies, SB1 will halt educators ability to advocate for smaller classroom sizes, necessary facility improvements, and quality education, all of which will directly and negatively impact student success. The bill's demand that all state colleges and universities operate under one-size-fits-all rules further demonstrates the legislature's inability, or unwillingness, to understand the diverse roles of faculty from one institution to another.

Ohio's higher education system thrives when faculty have a voice in shaping policies that impact our students' success. I urge you to vote against SB1 and instead support policies that respect faculty expertise, uphold academic freedom, and protect collective bargaining rights.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope you will stand with faculty and students by opposing this harmful legislation.

Sincerely,

Don Bruce