

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 2025 Feb 10

Name: Tyler Swingle

Are you representing: Yourself ☒ Organization ☐

Organization (If Applicable): University of Cincinnati

Position/Title: Assistant Professor

Address:

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Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes ☒ No ☐

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): SB 01, HB 06

Specific Issue: Ohio SB1 and HB6 should be opposed because they undermine academic freedom, weaken research and tenure protections, and threaten the ability of Ohio's universities to produce innovative, diverse, and well-prepared professionals who strengthen our communities, support local economies, and enhance the built environment across the state.

Are you testifying as a: Proponent ☐ Opponent ☒ Interested Party ☐

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes ☒ No ☐ (If

yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

Will your testimony be written, spoken, or both? Written, below

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

Testimony Opposing Ohio SB1 and HB6

Prof. Tyler Swingle

Faculty Member, University of Cincinnati – College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning (DAAP)

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

I write today in strong opposition to Ohio SB1 and HB6, which threaten the fundamental structure of higher education in our state. As a faculty member at the University of Cincinnati, I have seen firsthand the critical role that academic freedom, tenure, and research play in advancing both the profession of architecture and the well-being of Ohio's communities. Coming from academia in Texas at the University of Texas, I have also seen first hand the negative effects of similar legislation.

The Value of Research and Tenure in Architecture

Academic research drives innovation in architecture, directly benefiting the built environment and economy of Ohio. At the University of Cincinnati, faculty-led research advances sustainable building technologies, historic preservation strategies, and urban design solutions that shape our cities and towns for the better. These contributions not only elevate the reputation of our institutions but also position Cincinnati and Ohio as national leaders in architectural innovation.

Tenure protections allow faculty to pursue groundbreaking research, engage in meaningful public discourse, and mentor students without fear of political or economic pressures. Weakening these protections risks limiting the expertise and thought leadership that make Ohio's architecture programs nationally recognized and respected by the profession.

Positive Impacts on Cincinnati and Regional Architecture Practice

Cincinnati has a thriving architectural and design community, bolstered by the research and talent developed at UC. Our faculty and graduates contribute to firms that shape the region's skyline, infrastructure, and cultural landmarks. The university's strong co-op program—one of the nation's best—ensures that students gain hands-on experience with local firms, directly enhancing the state's economy. By supporting tenure and research, we continue to attract top students and faculty, keeping Ohio at the forefront of architectural education and practice.

Supporting All Ohio Communities in the Profession

Ohio is home to diverse communities, each with unique architectural and urban challenges. A robust academic environment ensures that students from all backgrounds—including those from underrepresented and rural communities—have the opportunity to excel in architecture. Diverse perspectives strengthen the profession, leading to more inclusive, equitable, and resilient design solutions. Reducing support for public universities undermines these pathways to success, disproportionately harming students who rely on affordable, high-quality education.

Conclusion

SB1 and HB6 threaten the very foundation of higher education in Ohio, jeopardizing our ability to attract top faculty, conduct meaningful research, and prepare students for the evolving demands of the architecture profession. I urge you to oppose these bills and instead invest in policies that strengthen our universities, support our students, and ensure that all of Ohio's communities can thrive.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I welcome any opportunity to discuss these issues further.

Sincerely,

Tyler Swingle

Assistant Professor

University of Cincinnati – College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.