

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Abigail Dedrick. I am an undergraduate student at Miami University Oxford. I am an Asian American and I am majoring in Environmental Earth Science with a co-major in Environmental Science. I have lived in Ohio all my life, and school, family, and friends have treated me well and made me the person I am today. During my time at college, I enjoy reading books, watching dramas, dancing and hanging out with friends, and exploring the outdoors. I have strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

As a student in Ohio, Senate Bill 1 (SB 1) feels like a direct attack on our education and our future. It takes power away from the elected State Board of Education and hands it to a governor-appointed official, meaning decisions about our schools will be made by politicians instead of people who understand what we need. It also shifts the focus from a well-rounded education to just workforce training, which makes it seem like we're being trained for jobs instead of being taught to think critically, express ourselves, and engage with the world. On top of that, it limits Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives, making schools less inclusive and stripping away support systems that help students from different backgrounds feel safe and valued. Plus, with every new administration, education policies could change, leaving us caught in the middle of constant disruptions. SB 1 isn't about helping students—it's about controlling education for political gain, and we're the ones who will suffer for it.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this harmful, unjust, and reckless bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Abigail Dedrick