

My name is Edward Evans, and I have taught at The University of Akron for 27 years. I stood against Senate Bill 83 last year because I knew it would damage Ohio's higher education system, and I am writing again today to oppose Senate Bill 1, which attempts to impose the same failed policies.

Senate Bill 83 did not pass because it was widely recognized as an overreach that threatened academic freedom and weakened our institutions' ability to compete nationally. Universities are places of inquiry, discussion, and debate, but Senate Bill 1, like its predecessor, aims to control what faculty can teach and what students can learn. These restrictions will discourage top faculty from coming to Ohio and push our best students to seek education in states where their intellectual freedom is respected.

Bringing back failed legislation does not make it better. It simply ignores the will of Ohioans who spoke out against it the first time. If we truly care about the future of higher education in this state, we should be supporting policies that foster academic excellence, not reviving bills that were already rejected. I urge you to listen to the people of Ohio and vote against Senate Bill 1.

Ed Evans