

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 Carla Blackmar Rice. I am a parent of two kids, one of whom will be making their decision about where to attend college in two years. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

Our family moved from California to Ohio to work in higher education. We had multiple job offers, but chose Miami University for its excellence, its public mission, and because it seemed like a college our own children might one day be able to attend. My husband and I have given it our all to Miami University for seven years, working with hundreds of students and building programs of excellence.

One of the programs my husband works on is Miami University's "Inside Hollywood" program, which fosters connections between Ohio students and the California-based film industry. This program and others like it builds economic connections that benefit our state and its own nascent film industry.

In the time that we've worked on this program, we have been distressed to see the way in which the outside perception of Ohio has shifted. I don't know if you are aware, but the word "Ohio" is slang for "weird, sad, desperate" in the lingo of today's Gen Z students. I am afraid to say that it this is being driven by legislation like SB1. SB1's retrograde attitudes and strictures make Ohio seem a backwater, not the kind of place where students will wish to attend college, where production studios will seek out new talent, or where creatives will choose to locate permanently.

It seems our legislature feels it can afford to lose today's young people... and families like mine. But I'm not so sure. My family brings a lot to Ohio's public education system, and we believe our honors student would too... but we can't continue on here if you pass SB 1.

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

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

*Carla Blackmar Rice*