

Chairman, members of the committee, my name is Mark Nettling, and I am a business owner and a father in Ohio. I grew up in Ohio and now raise a family here. I opposed Senate Bill 83 last year because I knew it would hurt Ohio's ability to produce and retain a strong workforce, as well as hurt students at all levels, and I am writing today to voice my opposition to Senate Bill 1 and its companion bill HB 6, which is a second attempt at the same misguided policies.

Senate Bill 83 failed because it was bad for Ohio's universities students, and businesses. Ohio's economy thrives when we have strong institutions that attract top talent, produce highly skilled graduates, and foster innovation. This bill, seeks to limit what can be taught, restrict diversity and inclusion efforts, and impose political oversight on academic institutions. If passed, it will make Ohio a less attractive place for both students and employers. It is also another step toward authoritarian government control, forcing political beliefs to be indoctrinated in young minds, and narrowing the view those students are allowed to see. Economies and societies never thrive when its people are not allowed, or given the opportunity, to see and approach issues from different perspectives.

Ohioans already said no to these policies. Reviving them in a new bill does not change the fact that they are harmful and unnecessary. The legislature should focus on policies that strengthen our workforce and keep Ohio competitive, not reintroducing failed ideas that our state already rejected. We need meaningful educational improvements, not political indoctrination and divisive mandates. We need to focus on empowering our students, the future workforce, with knowledge and skills they need to succeed, which Senate Bill 1 does not do in any way. You have the power to keep Ohio free from educational tyranny, and I implore you to use it, as freedom is the cornerstone of Ohio and the United States of America.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this extremist, oppressive bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Vote against Senate Bill 1.