

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify. My name is Marissa Gee. I am an Assistant Professor of Mathematics who recently made the decision to start my career in the state of Ohio. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

I'll be honest: when I was considering where to work, Ohio was preemptively off of my list. However, when I got the chance to visit my current institution, I fell in love with the hardworking and intelligent faculty, staff, and students and the beautiful surrounding nature. There was just one question: was Ohio a state that would respect my personal freedoms, as both an individual and an academic? At the time, I decided the answer was Yes. If this bill is passed, the answer will become a resounding No. Other academics like myself, who may fall in love with what this state has to offer, will absolutely be driven away by the impingement on faculty rights and academic freedom contained in this bill. The harm done to the students of Ohio, who rely on the recruitment of talented faculty, would be immense. Not only that, but this bill will economically harm the communities surrounding these institutions, as colleges and universities would be unable to attract and retain faculty at the level they do now. Across the board, this bill will harm the state of Ohio and all of the educational institutions contained within it.

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

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.