

## **Written Testimony in Opposition to SB 1/HB 6**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my written testimony in opposition to SB 1/HB 6. My name is Jennifer Marsh Ginder. I am an attorney, active community member, wife and a mother of two daughters, one a recent graduate of Ohio State University with a degree in Biology and a minor in Public Health, the other a sophomore at Ohio University in the Honors Tutorial Program studying Biology. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

If this bill were to pass, it would devastate Ohio's public colleges and universities. If passed, I guarantee that students, professors, tuition dollars and countless jobs will race to leave our state. I struggle to understand what the authors of this bill are so afraid of? The only conclusion I can imagine is that they want to discourage – even vilify – critical thinking. I assume the authors attended college, and even so, they seem tone deaf to the value of free thought, challenging ideas and theories, or the understanding that factual history advances our society so that we continue to grow. In fact, the language of this bill proposes exactly the opposite of those fundamental building blocks of higher education. They clearly don't want Ohio to have a smart electorate.

There are too many horrifying provisions in this bill to list in my short testimony, but the most salient examples include:

1. Requiring educators to make public their names and contact information as part of the bill's attempt at "transparency." This encourages foul play and risks the safety of these educators. Further, the additional regulatory burden this bill puts on educators and universities to implement and report on these mandates will discourage educators from coming to Ohio and will cause an exodus of current faculty;
2. Prohibiting curriculum that "is the subject of political controversy," citing a long list of broad policy topics that are central to complete education in many professional fields, including History, Political Science, Medicine, Environmental Science, Biology and more; and
3. Eliminating any programming, courses or training related to DEI. If there is ever a place where diversity, equity and inclusion is CRITICAL, it is in institutions of higher learning.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this extremist and destructive bill. Again, thanks for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Marsh Ginder