

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

My name is Candyce Glave. I am a parent of two students, a sophomore and a senior currently attending an Ohio high school. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6 because it threatens the integrity of higher education and limits the opportunities available to my children and their classmates.

As a parent, I want my children to receive the best education—one that fosters critical thinking and prepares them to engage with a diverse world. Senate Bill 1, however, risks undermining that by introducing political oversight into university curricula and restricting academic freedom.

The bill broadly defines "controversial beliefs" to include issues such as climate change, DEI, and the Holocaust. This could prevent educators from teaching essential facts or correcting misinformation, such as denying historical events. It also requires faculty to allow students to reach their own conclusions without addressing inaccuracies, potentially allowing students to submit incorrect work on assignments or exams without consequences.

By banning DEI initiatives, including training and scholarships, and imposing regulations that limit faculty and staff from endorsing or opposing certain beliefs, this bill sends a message that inclusion and equal opportunity are not priorities. It could make it more difficult for universities to attract and retain top educators, further limiting the quality of education available to students.

I want Ohio to be a place where my children and their classmates can receive an outstanding education and have access to meaningful career opportunities. However, this bill threatens that future. I strongly urge you to vote against Senate Bill 1.