

Testimony of Katie Vinopal, Ph.D.
Before the Senate Higher Education Committee
Senator Kristina Roegner, Chair
Monday, Feb. 10, 2025

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Ingram, and Members of the Higher Education Committee:

My name is Katie Vinopal, and I am a professor of at the John Glenn College of Public Affairs at The Ohio State University (OSU), where I have taught since 2016 and lead our doctoral program. I do not represent OSU but rather am submitting testimony as a private citizen in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

The Glenn College proudly educates future public and nonprofit leaders –people who are called to be civil servants and work on behalf of everyone living and working in our country. Every day I'm honored to help educate these smart, talented, community-minded students. This education includes all essential elements of high-quality public affairs scholarship, translated into applied lessons to enhance students' potential to do good, informed work.

There are many aspects of this bill that lead me to oppose it, but for the purposes of this testimony, I will focus on one: the huge administrative and financial cost of this bill. Annual reviews and performance standards are already built into faculty life at universities. Student as well as peer evaluations of instruction are routine and deeply considered. Introducing new processes and standards not tailored to individual academic units would be redundant and less effective, requiring more governance and administration for no additional gain.

Finally, I currently serve as director of our doctoral program at the Glenn College. The doctoral curriculum committee I lead includes faculty, staff, and a student representative. The dedication of this committee (and all Glenn faculty, staff, and students) to transparent, high-quality governance impresses me every single day. I know our committee is no different from any of the other committees helping to run our college. I invite anyone interested to join one of our curricular meetings to witness our robust but collegial debates and fair decision-making processes.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.