

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Katherine Lutz. I am a college student at the University of Cincinnati where I am also employed. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

I work in the Learning Commons at the University of Cincinnati, and this has given and continues to give me the great opportunity to work with both professors and students with a wide range of identities. I am concerned that this bill will harm many of the people that I work with and value as both an employee and a student.

I have worked with the Learning Commons for three years. This experience has allowed me to interact and form connections with a diverse selection of students including African American, first generation, international, Jewish, and LGBTQ+ students. I have seen them put in extra effort to better educate themselves and become the best versions of themselves in order to pursue their dreams. I fear that if SB 1 passes, these students will not be able to continue with their education as they cannot afford it due to a loss of scholarship or will feel as if they are not safe to continue pursuing their education in Ohio.

I also work with a professor. He is one of the best professors I have had. He has stated that he is incredibly anxious about this bill. I worry that if this bill is passed, he will leave the university and move to another state that aligns with his values. I believe this would be a great loss for the university as he is doing incredible research as well as being a great mentor and teacher.

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

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.