

Testimony of Jennifer Green, Ph.D.
Before the Senate Higher Education Committee
Senator Kristina Roegner, Chair
February 9, 2025

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

My name is Jennifer Green, and I am a professor of Psychology at a public University in Ohio, where I have taught for 19 years. I do not represent any institution, but rather am submitting testimony as a private citizen in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I oppose Senate Bill 1 entirely, but will focus my testimony on two especially problematic components. Senate Bill 1's dismantling of Diversity Equity and Inclusion initiatives is especially unsettling and problematic. Research has shown that organizations and institutions benefit from diverse perspectives and the ideas of people from diverse backgrounds and identities. The elimination of initiatives that educate all individuals about diversity, equity, and inclusion and ensure the safety and comfort of people from diverse backgrounds will cripple institutions and reduce the quality of education, research and public service Universities can offer. Having a diverse student, staff and faculty enriches everyone's educational experience. Eliminating diversity, equity and inclusion efforts will result in less diversity on campus and diminish the quality of education we can provide to students.

The bill will also cause an immense amount of work resulting in wasted time and resources for Universities to publish every syllabus online. In addition to the wasted time and money, instructors will be subject to harassment from any individual who does not agree with their perspective or value their area of research. I agree with efforts to make governments and institutions more efficient and to save taxpayer money. The mandate to publish all syllabi online including contact information for the instructor is an example of a bureaucratic mandate that is a huge waste of taxpayer money.