

## Testimony Against Ohio SB 1/HB 6

My name is Benjamin Gregg and I'm a resident of Twinsburg, OH. I'm writing to you as a future social worker and a concerned constituent of State Senator Roegner and State Representative Steve Demetriou. The supposed reforms outlined in SB 1/HB 6 should not be a priority to The Ohio General Assembly. Simply put, DEI initiatives have been standard protocol for many professions (many years before it became some kind of kind of political buzzword) - especially for those of us who are entering into the behavioral health and medical fields. If Ohio goes through with erasing these aspects of curriculum within our public colleges and universities, it will put Ohio workers at a disadvantage concerning their professional and career opportunities, or in many cases, force Ohio workers to be non-compliant with governing bodies such as the American Counseling Association, for example. This will likely lead to Ohio colleges and universities losing accreditation from the NASW, ACA, behavioral health, and other medical associations. Ultimately, this bill jeopardizes licensure for graduates and essentially makes our state completely non-competitive in the development and retention of our behavioral healthcare workforce. Simply put, every client or patient that a behavioral health care worker interacts with is going to come from a specific cultural background. We already have major issues in the mental health and healthcare fields as it is by implementing a "one size fits all" approach to interventions. Legislation like this will only exacerbate those issues. If a counselor, social worker, or nurse doesn't possess a comprehensive understanding of the nuances of a patient's background (such as their race, religion, or sexual orientation) they may do more harm than good in providing behavioral or medical support. Ultimately, this bill does nothing but put Ohio workers at a major disadvantage in their career opportunities and weakens our state's standing as a leader in behavioral health and health care more broadly. Ohio voters opposed this measure when it was SB 83, and we continue to vociferously oppose it now under its current designation as SB 1/HB 6. This bill should be retracted at all costs. We have more pressing concerns in this state.

Listen to us.

Sincerely,  
Benjamin Gregg  
Twinsburg, OH