

Stephen Logan

188 Aldrich Rd.

Columbus, OH 43214

stephen.logan81@gmail.com

2/9/2025

Subject: Strong Opposition to Senate Bill 1

Dear Senate Higher Education Committee,

I am writing as a concerned faculty member who works at a community college in Ohio. After reviewing Senate Bill 1, it is apparent to me that this bill is misguided and would actively harm Ohio's higher education system, the important work of faculty, and the students themselves.

The bill's focus on limiting DEI is a major concern for me. From reading the bill, it is apparent to me that the bill's sponsors misunderstand the nature of DEI as it relates to faculty training and curriculum. In my experience, DEI isn't a requirement that all faculty believe in the same ideology, but rather it is a way for faculty to better understand and serve their student population. I work at an extremely diverse college and understanding their diverse cultural and socio-economic conditions is an important part of helping them succeed in the classroom. Never have I been required to agree with or adopt a specific ideological position, and the implication that these trainings are ideologically driven is plainly false.

In addition, DEI in the classroom is much less controversial than this bill paints it to be. In my classroom, I spent hours each term crafting a reading list that exposes my students to as many authors as possible: ancient, classic and contemporary works, authors from different regions and cultural groups, and authors of varying philosophical, ideological, and religious perspectives. In terms of graded assignments, not one of my assignments ever asks a student to believe or agree with any one perspective. Instead, they are graded on their engagement with the readings and the quality of their thinking and writing. The suggestion that my students are forced to agree with me is the opposite of the classes I teach. This bill's focus on limiting diversity misconstrues what happens in the classroom, and it will undercut the very intellectual freedom that it claims to support.

I also strongly oppose the bill's changes to collective bargaining, the tenure system, and student and peer evaluations. My experience is that both collective bargaining and the tenure system make work better for faculty, which keeps the focus on students and translates to a better education experience for them as well. Our faculty work hard to maintain high standards for ourselves and our students, and both groups would be harmed by these changes.

I feel that this bill will damage Ohio's higher education system, and I oppose its passage. I think the Senate Higher Education Committee, and in particular, Senator Cirino, would do well to reach out to more faculty and students to hear about their needs, especially in regard to the need for better state funding, more academic support for students, and funding better mental health support. More

support for faculty and students in these areas would help improve conditions in Ohio's colleges, rather than eroding the higher education system with the passage of Senate Bill 1.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Stephen Logan

Columbus, Ohio