

**Opponent Testimony for Senate Bill 1  
Senate Higher Education Committee  
February 9, 2025**

**Abby Hager, Undergraduate Student  
University of Cincinnati**

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

My name is Abby Hager, and I am an undergraduate student at the University of Cincinnati. I do not represent the University of Cincinnati but rather am submitting testimony as a private citizen of Ohio in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

As I pursue my Bachelor of Arts degree, my focus is Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and Psychology. I will also earn a LGBTQ+ Studies certificate and a Deaf Studies certificate. My education so far has provided opportunities to expand my knowledge in ways that would otherwise not be available. My professors and fellow students help expand my thinking, increase my understanding of our community and our world, and the value of each person.

I plan to pursue a career as a school counselor with the hope of making a positive impact in the lives of students, to be a person who supports them in achieving their goals.

The passing of this bill would ban diversity and inclusion efforts and courses and set rules around discussion of “controversial beliefs” in the classroom. The result would be to jeopardize and stifle learning, not advance it.

I’m frightened and angry over the possible passing of SB1. I’m passionate about education and opportunities to grow and learn as students work to succeed in the classroom and in life. This bill puts my education, my future, and the future of countless other students in jeopardy.

SB1 jeopardizes education and therefore, the success of our communities and our state.

There are no right or wrong thoughts. This bill will regulate the subjects taught and control what professors can and cannot teach, no matter what. This goes against everything higher education stands for—encouraging critical thinking, open discussions, and diverse perspectives, all without judgement. Rather than promoting a safe space to learn, this bill muzzles students’ rights to an education that builds knowledge and helps them become responsible citizens.

Senate Bill 1 is a danger to higher education and safe learning spaces. I ask that you please consider my testimony and vote no on this harmful bill. Thank you.