

Testimony of Trinidad Linares, M.A.  
Before the Senate Higher Education Committee  
Senator Kristina Roegner, Chair  
February 12, 2025

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

My name is Trinidad Linares, and I am a library associate of the Music Library and Bill Schurk Sound Archives at Bowling Green State University. I do not represent Bowling Green State University (BGSU), but rather am submitting testimony as a private citizen in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

Senate Bill 1's focus on business and political partnerships does a disservice to the students. I see the issues with funding and teacher shortages in the K-12 schools in my area. This will exacerbate those problems for partisan politics and a power grab. Power should remain with the State Board of Education, which represents the needs of the 11 districts, and can provide the proper oversight to the students in those communities.

In the higher education realm, Senate Bill 1 seeks to dismantle the relationship that instructors have with their students under the pretense of the words "equality" and "own, informed conclusions." Not everything is up to interpretation and to say that it is will not benefit the students. In addition, the curtailing of certain terminology undermines education. The Music Library and Bill Schurk Sound Archives has both Western art music and popular music. Our popular music, which is primarily American, is built on diversity, from slave songs to protest songs. Loretta Lynn, who is know for country music, recorded "The Pill" after *Eisenstadt v. Baird* and *Griswold v. Connecticut*. Her lyrics stressed the toll of pregnancy on women's lives/bodies and the benefit of birth control. The doctors considered that song a public service announcement. I work for a university whose tagline talks about education for the public good. It makes sense for me to discuss popular music that contributes to the public good.

I have also been part of one the scholarship committees at BGSU for five years. It has been an honor to give out scholarships to help our students. We are a predominantly white institution and our growth has come, not from embracing white supremacy, but diversifying our student population. Diversity isn't a favor you give to someone else. It is a gift to your

community. If Ohio students cannot afford to go to school in Ohio because we withhold scholarships from them because their community is underserved, we are the ones that lose out. By withholding certain scholarships, you are increasing the applicant pool for the fewer scholarships we can give out. We will lose smart students who do not wish to play scholarship games. If you look at the students whose achievements appear on the university publicity, they come from different genders, races, religious backgrounds, classes, and different walks of life.

We should work on making education better from kindergarten to college. I ask you to vote no on Senate Bill 1.

Thank you