

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide opponent testimony. My name is Angela Lin, I'm a resident of Beavercreek, Ohio, and I am a lifelong Ohioan who is strongly opposed to Senate Bill 1 and its companion bill House Bill 6 that endangers the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community, attacks academic freedoms and diversity of Ohio's public higher education institutions, and weakens workers' rights.

SB 1 singles out Chinese academic institutions, reinforcing an inflated anti-Asian narrative that puts students, faculty, staff, and the broader community at risk. Because the majority of Americans can't distinguish between Asian ethnicities, scapegoating one Asian country can generate racism against people descended from other Asian countries. As the daughter of Taiwanese immigrants, I am often perceived to be of Chinese descent, and this bill only heightens the anxiety and fear that the AAPI community has felt since the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition to contributing to Sinophobia, SB 1 would have a chilling effect on academic freedom by its promotion of "intellectual diversity" while censoring certain topics, content, and opportunities for diversity, equity, and inclusivity. This bill undermines the foundation of our educational system that has made Ohio's colleges and universities the pillars of higher education that they have been for years. As a result, Ohio students will choose to leave the state to pursue higher education, just as prospective out-of-state students will rule Ohio out due to its restricted and harmful learning environment.

Finally, by attacking workers' rights, SB 1 weakens the voice of campus workers and sets an anti-labor precedent to take collective bargaining rights away from all other unions in Ohio. Instead of stripping the rights of workers, we must be strengthening our unions, which in turn strengthens the quality of education that students receive. By undermining faculty rights, we are undermining the value of higher education — which, again, would hurt Ohio's economy as educators will choose to leave Ohio.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this extremist bill that would destroy higher education, threaten the AAPI community, and harm students and workers in Ohio.

Thank you for your time and consideration.