

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Kyle Ley. I am a resident of Cincinnati working in the healthcare industry, and a graduate of The Ohio State University. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

I consider it a great honor to have earned my Industrial and Systems Engineering degree from Ohio State. Not only did I receive an education in a well-paying high demand profession, I made lifelong friends from diverse backgrounds, and my worldview expanded because of the open environment fostered at the university.

I have always considered our state a welcoming place where young people from anywhere can grow and develop and ultimately build a life. I am a proud Ohioan who moved out of state for work but chose to move back to the state 9 years ago to raise my family, here where I grew up.

I am deeply concerned about the negative impact that SB1 & HB6 could have on our state. Allowing the state legislature to overreach and curtail teaching topics that it deems “controversial,” banning so-called DEI topics, while also limiting collective bargaining for university staff could be disastrous for higher education in our state. The policies outlined in these bills will damage our academic institutions and result in a massive brain drain that will have a severe negative impact on our economy. Let us ensure that our state remains a place that draws people in rather than driving them away.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this extremist and economic ruinous bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.