

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 Kari Sommers. I am a lifelong Ohio resident, a mom of three, and have a background in education and library work. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

I want my children to receive an even better and more well-rounded education than I received as an Ohio public school student. This bill will not accomplish any improvement in Ohio's public schools. Instead, it will allow the governor to politicize what is currently overseen by nonpartisan, *elected* State Board members. The last thing Ohio needs is more unelected bureaucrats doing the bidding of the Governor, regardless of which party controls the office. It will take away the will of the people and what we voted for, and it will put the interests of those who profit or whose interests are served by non-chartered, non-public schools who can pick their students above that of Ohio's children, *all* of whom are served by public schools.

It was just two years ago that a White supremacist homeschooling network was found to be sharing Nazi-related "resources" in Ohio. Not only was this horrific, but it was also an embarrassment for Ohio's educational oversight and the homeschooling community as a whole; every homeschooling family I know was shocked and embarrassed. Rest assured that in the current political climate, reducing regulations on homeschooling in Ohio will further embolden extremists to disseminate hateful material that does not belong anywhere near children. In short, our children deserve better than a loosening of regulations and a politicizing of oversight that should be done by nonpartisan public servants who have the best interests of children, not special interests, in mind.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this destructive bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.