

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 Ivan. I am a community outreach and engagement specialist for a large research nonprofit and a graduate of Ohio's Miami University. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

I am opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6 because the requirements outlined will restrict the free flow of ideas and inhibit education. I know this to be true as I am a product of a liberal arts education rich with the sciences and humanities.

In my courses I was taught to look at data and information objectively and to arrive at my own conclusions based on a strict scientific method. However, as is expected and not uncommon, some objective and factual conclusions cause controversy. Being able to identify global and long-term changes in climate, for example, are easy to identify with data but are uncomfortable to grapple with when presented with a grim reality that cannot be ignored. Steering away from "controversial issues" - especially those outlined in the proposed bills - squanders our innate human desire to problem-solve and deliver benefits to those around us.

Additionally, while attending a university hours away from the town I grew up in, I was lucky enough to meet and learn with people from across the country and the globe. In my interactions with my classmates, "intellectual diversity" happened naturally, as no one person has the same upbringing or perspectives. It did not need a mandate with the goal of force fitting it into situations where it will be ineffective, as proposed in SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

Today, I am a communicator that promotes the innovative science that solves the world's largest problems. I am able to do so because I understand the science and know how to relate to my fellow neighbors, none of which would be possible without the holistic education and relationships I gained from Miami University. This wouldn't be possible if the environment that allowed me to engage with these topics in an unbiased manner did not exist.

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

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.