

Chairman, members of the committee, my name is Julia Brooks, and I am here to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1. I have been a student in higher education for 6 years, and an educator at an Ohio university 2 years. As an educator and student in the field of psychology, the content of this bill is very concerning. Not only will the limitations proposed by the bill reduce the quality of education in many social science fields, but the bill will also reduce protections against hate speech and discrimination within the classroom and elsewhere on campus. Further, without exposure to discussion of these topics, which have real-world implications, students will lose access to essential preparations for the complexities of our society.

Institutions have made great strides in recent decades to enrich the quality and reach of our education, while making students feel welcome, protected, and able to freely discuss issues that they face as they navigate this world. Passing this bill would be a massive leap backwards in progression of universities in Ohio. I urge you to consider alternative legislation that will propel this progression, not hinder it.