

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

Thank you for allowing me to submit a written testimony today. My name is Calla Booher and I am an undergraduate student studying microbiology pre-medicine at Ohio University. I was born and raised in Ohio and am incredibly proud of my state. However, I believe that Senate Bill 1 undermines the values and integrity of higher education in Ohio. So, I am strongly opposed to Senate Bill 1.

I and many other students rely on identity based scholarships to pay for school. Because the bill does not define DEI, it is very scary for me and a lot of my peers who don't know whether or not we will be able to continue our education. Personally, I receive scholarship and aid for being a low income student, and without it I never would be able to attend university. Equity scholarships are crucial for the working class of Ohio to get an education and elevate their status within society. Personally, my life goal is to work in healthcare to serve my community within Ohio, and his bill could be devastating for my future and the future of many of my classmates.

Furthermore, without these scholarships, I likely would not be able to go to school in Ohio. While in-state tuition incentivizes me to attend an Ohio university, without DEI scholarships in Ohio, I would need to look to other states to be able to afford college. I know that I am not alone in this, and I believe that this bill would lead to a death of higher education in Ohio for the majority of students who cannot pay tuition outright.

This bill gives me so much fear for the future of higher education in Ohio, and I ask that you please consider my testimony and vote NO on this harmful bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.