

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 Victor Claude. I am a student currently attending Miami University. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

By passing this bill, it would cut scholarship funding to many students currently relying on scholarships provided by DEI programs. This also is a violation of the First Amendment in many different ways. It violates our freedom of speech by limiting our courses, prohibiting any “controversial topics”. Many people are political science majors, so if classes aren’t allowed to talk about political topics, this would greatly limit the education that political science majors receive. This would threaten the women and gender studies programs as well. In addition, taking away DEI programs is a violation of the Sixteenth and Twenty Eighth Amendments, as this targets people of racial and sexual minorities specifically. By banning DEI training, this is a violation of the First Amendment and also opens up more opportunities for discrimination in the workplace against people of racial and sexual minorities. There is also a section of the bill that mentions limiting academic partnerships with the People's Republic of China. There are many foreign exchange programs that would be targeted if this bill were to pass. This would also limit people’s access to study abroad opportunities in China. The bill also prohibits striking from full time faculty employees. This is a violation of the National Labor Relations Act, as this act protects workers’ right to strike. There are many unconstitutional and morally wrong components to this bill, and I and many of my peers strongly oppose this bill.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on SB 1 and HB 6.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.