

**Shawn Casey**

Columbus, OH 43215

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## **Opposition to Senate Bill 1 – Protect Faculty Rights and Collective Bargaining**

Dear Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of Senate Bill 1. I am representing myself. I am a scholar of the history of literacy with a doctoral degree from Ohio State. I am also an English teacher with more than 20 years' experience in several state institutions of higher education in Central Ohio.

Senate Bill 1 concerns me gravely. The proposed sweeping changes roll several important issues into one bill that together threaten our ability to create an environment that fosters student success. These issues at least deserve to be debated independently.

By removing faculty workload and tenure protections as well as retrenchment policies from collective bargaining, SB1 limits educators' right to advocate for effective education for our students. These changes also limit our ability to compete nationally and internationally for the best qualified educators for our state. By limiting our state's ability to educate, SB1 limits our ability to compete on the world stage.

Similarly, most diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives have the goal of expanding the access and effectiveness of our educational system. These initiatives work alongside existing protections for academic freedoms for both faculty and students. Banning institutional self-determination effectively limits our ability to foster the environment of intellectual diversity promoted in the bill.

I urge you to **vote against SB1** and instead support policies that respect faculty expertise, uphold academic freedom, and protect collective bargaining rights.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

**Shawn Casey, PhD**