

10th February 2025

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 Starr Stimson. I am an out-of-state, first-generation college freshman at Miami University majoring in International Studies. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

I previously mentioned that I am a first-generation college student but I also come from a family who struggles financially. As someone who is represented under the DEI label I rely heavily on scholarship funding that pertains to DEI students, just like many other students as well. This bill will not only affect the way we are taught in college but also force students who rely on these scholarships to resort to other methods of funding. For someone in my financial situation, without these scholarships I would have to drop out of college. As I mentioned before I am also an International Studies major. My major requires me to learn about diversity and cultures as a means to study world problems. By limiting my access to DEI classes and seminars you are limiting my access to knowledge required to approach future jobs appropriately. You are also allowing for many controversial issues to be left up to complete interpretation by people when it comes to certain current and/or historical events. This bill not only limits the way professors teach, but can alter the way certain people approach jobs and how diversity is handled, resulting in discrimination. If this bill is passed this will lead to the discrimination of not only DEI students and people who support them, but also higher education professors and administrators. This bill has the ability to cause great harm to all DEI students and faculty. This bill per section 3345.0217 (1) (a) eliminates offices and departments pertaining to DEI. This will affect many college students greatly and can make this harder for students to assemble in a safe environment. These offices support DEI students through their college experience and this will prevent many students from having access to such support.

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

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.