

February 10, 2025

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

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony. My name is Elizabeth Schultz and I work at a nonprofit in Lorain County, Ohio. I am strongly opposed to Senate Bill 1 and House Bill 6.

You were elected to represent and defend the best of America's ideals, which include creating equal opportunity for all. By prohibiting "any orientation or training course regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion" you are undermining that opportunity. You are skirting the obligation of the state to own up to its past enforcement of unequal and unjust laws. You are perpetuating the myth that everyone comes to the table with the same financial and educational resources. Do you not want facilities administrators at public institutions to know that some students will have difficulty accessing certain spaces? Do you not want professors to know that some of their students might have hearing or sight challenges? Do you not want Ohio to attract college students from all over the world and have a welcoming environment waiting for them here? This bill will take away tools that can help Ohioans live up to the best of America's founding values.

Thank you for considering my testimony and voting No.

Liz Schultz