

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 Elise Bergeron. I am a student at the University of Cincinnati, majoring in Environmental Studies and minoring in Anthropology. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

In my senior year at Walnut Hills High school, a Cincinnati Public School, I took the class ethnic studies. It focused on the history of minority groups in America, which are often left out of other history classes. I consider it the most important class I took in high school, as it expanded my knowledge of U.S. history, and helped me to understand social issues from different perspectives. Classes like this have made me a better student and a more open-minded member of society. I strongly believe that everyone deserves the opportunity to take classes on similar subjects, and that these classes enrich a school's curriculum.

As a college student now, I worry how this bill would affect my peers and I in terms of censorship, scholarship opportunities, and general campus safety. One student I know has already had their research project stopped suddenly due to President Trump's policies on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Many other people I know that are majoring in education are also worried about job opportunities in the future. Further restrictions on education from SB 1 will only harm the students, faculty and staff of Ohio schools.

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

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.