

Opponent Testimony for S.B. No. 1
Senators Brenner, Chavez, Cutrona, Johnson, Koehler, Lang, Manchester, O'Brien, Reineke,
Roegner, Romanchuk, Schaffer, Wilkin
2/10/2025

Kalvin Ruthbell Sandy
Student

Chair Kristina D. Roegner, Vice Chair Theresa Gavarone, Ranking Member Willis E. Blackshear, and members of the Education and Workforce Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Calvin R. Sandy, he/him/his. I am a student at Ohio State University, majoring in art education with a minor in art history. I live and work in the Columbus/Hilliard area. I'm here to oppose the bill in its entirety, as it currently stands, as well as expressing immense concern for certain sections; 3345.0217, 3345.451, and 4117.14, addressed in the bill.

In my future, I strive to be a well-rounded teacher and student, and in this process, I find myself discussing and understanding topics considered "controversial" stated in your bill. People's lives are constantly affected by things under this list such as climate policies; those affected in California by the fires, or those living in areas close to rising sea levels, foreign policies and immigration policies; people taken from their homes under the suspicion of being an immigrant without due process such as warrants signed by judges, children being separated from parents due to seeking asylum in a country they understood to be safe, or people barred from coming back home to the United States under suspicion of being a terrorist, marriage; people unable to be divorced from abusive partners, consenting adults wanting to seek benefits from their marriage, or people being barred from adoption due to the status of their marriage, and abortion; a child raped by an adult and being forced to bring that child to term, a fetus dying in the womb and the mother who wanted that baby being forced to stay on the edge of death due to doctors being afraid to remove the fetus at risk of losing their license. This is a world that has been affected, is being affected and will always be affected by these things, and to be vague in what is right and wrong will cause more problems than solutions.

In addition to what I stated above, people all around me in my personal life and scholarly life will be heavily affected by this. Taking away consistent access to SSIs and additional funding to schools should they violate this bill in the ambiguous way stated, it allows for immense government overreach into higher education and education as a whole, and threatens the lives of college students as attendees to these colleges. Students will be forced to drop out due to lack of assistive funding, college attendance rates will go down, and people eligible for higher level jobs that require college degrees will also plummet. Teachers will be unable to strike against unfair contracts that put their life and safety at a detriment, and will be unable to support their fellow

man in other strikes. Holding an expected standard of “intellectual diversity”, as your bill states, will put at risk a quality education for many students within the similarly ambiguous “controversial” topics, such as Women, Gender, and Diversity Subjects, African-American literature, investigations into transgender ideology, sexuality based literature, and more. Forcing the inclusion of voices uninvolved in areas (such as white authors into discussions on the impacts of racism and xenophobia, or agnostic authors into topics of religion) will cause the quality in these discussions to decline.

I am testifying in opposition to this bill, as thousands upon thousands of lives and educations within these university and college spaces will be impacted in a negative way, almost to the point of irreparability, should this bill pass. I ask that this bill be voted out of the house and senate and be considered null and void.

Thank you. I’m happy to answer any questions.