

Kalli Teeters

Higher Education Committee- Senate Bill 1

February 10, 2025

My name is Kalli Teeters and I am a concerned higher education student and lifelong Ohio resident. I am testifying in regards to Senate Bill 1 and how it will damage growth in certain vital job fields.

I am a senior this year at Ohio University studying social work. I have a minor in psychology, and two certificates in Appalachian Studies and Wealth & Poverty. I have loved my education at my school; it has thoroughly prepared me for a career in social work. I was even accepted last week to the Masters of Social Work program at Ohio University. I hope to work in the mental and behavioral health field, specifically in rural Appalachia Ohio. As we know there is a high level of need for mental and behavioral health specialists especially in these communities. I am looking forward to being able to work in these communities and help combat the shortage of workers.

With this being said, I have read the bill and I have concerns. Social work is an accredited profession which means universities have to follow certain criteria to deem students eligible for a license exam. This bill directly interferes with this criteria. Therefore stripping the university of different accreditation titles that allow students to test for certain license exams. This includes not only social work but teachers, nurses, doctors, and more. I worry that students interested in these fields would not attend these universities and stay in this state.

I am concerned that with this bill we would see a decrease in the job fields that we need now more than ever. I want to maintain and make it better in Ohio, I love this state. I do not think this would be the most optimal decision for our public universities. I ask that you consider my voice and vote no on Senate Bill 1. Thank you for your time.