

Bonnie J. Gordon  
3545 Gridley Road  
Shaker Heights, OH 44122

Kristina Roegner  
Ohio Senate  
Per Email

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Bonnie Gordon. I am a teacher at Shaker Heights High School specializing in classes assisting students in recovering credit from failed coursework earlier in their high school careers. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

Many of my students have trouble reading, which is why they fail history classes (World History is one of the top courses in my credit recovery classes). They have absorbed falsities about history from social media or their friends and family, including but not limited to when and how industrialization took place, Holocaust denial, and even the existence of fictional countries. I am concerned that SB1/HB 6's emphasis on "intellectual diversity" does an extremely poor job of explaining how, for instance, the belief that Rwanda is the "real name" of Wakanda, or that Jews originally come from Albania, would not be considered intellectual diversity and therefore appropriate responses on tests and quizzes intended for recovering credit. If all topics that could be considered "controversial" are disallowed - and the history of the Middle East, for instance is nothing if not controversial in terms of its interpretations by various groups who are well represented in U.S. public school classrooms - then there is no way for teachers to maintain academic standards for any subject (with the possible exception of math). Does "intellectual diversity" include the refusal to believe that we share 98% of our DNA with chimpanzees, or that George Eliot was a woman? Why educate anyone ever again beyond the third grade, if all we want to teach is enough reading to be able to spend the rest of one's life learning from social media influencers and obeying road signs?

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this bill that all but guarantees the future ignorance of Ohio's citizenry.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Yours very truly,

*Bonnie J. Gordon*