

Senate Bill 1 Testimony Corrine Anderson  
**Opponent Testimony for SB 1**  
**Senate Higher Education Committee**  
**2/10/2025**

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I am a student at the University of Cincinnati who appreciates being surrounded by students who look different than me, act different than me, and think differently than me. I value diversity, equity, and inclusion. I am here today to explain why this bill would inhibit academic freedom and drive bright young people out of Ohio.

I am in several organizations on campus, most of which would be impacted by the DEI restrictions that this bill presents. In today's society, we still face the stereotype that women are less capable of doing the same job as a man. Even though women make up half of the U.S. population, in the U.S. Senate women hold 26% of the seats and in the U.S. House, women hold 29%. Let's face it, women are underrepresented and it is difficult to get ahead. These organizations in college are crucial in allowing us to connect and network with professionals so that one day we can become those leaders in office. If it weren't for the organizations offered for women in criminal justice or on a pre-law track, I would have a harder time finding connections in the workforce or finding an internship. There are so many organizations catered to minorities and my LGBTQ+ peers as well, that I know have helped them find their community on campus. What scares these lawmakers so much about giving women, minorities, and queer students a fair shot by offering organizations of support?

Additionally, the bill is advertised as "letting ideas flourish" in the classroom. This bill is not about letting ideas flourish, this is about being able to censor what we can talk about in class. In my Intro to Law and the Legal Profession course each week, we have the opportunity to bring up any current legal topics we may have questions about. These discussions are vital to student engagement and give us a better understanding of what is happening right now. This bill would no longer allow my professor to answer any questions or simply do his job. We would not be able to discuss the DEI rollbacks that are happening at the federal level, a possible federal abortion ban, any new foreign policy enacted and so much more. I have taken classes like "International Relations in Asia" that focus solely on foreign policy, and fear that we will no longer be able to take these classes. As a pre-law student, I wonder where in the world we can find a current textbook teaching students about the law that never once mentions marriage, abortion, immigration policy, foreign policy, or electoral politics. Yes, I'm sure we can make new textbooks and censor those as well, but Ohio students will no longer learn the same information as every other state, and we won't meet the basic qualifications for national certifications, jobs, and more.

I have never been taught by a teacher who has told me what to think or which way of thinking is right or wrong. I grew up being presented with historical facts and information and developed critical thinking skills on my own.

Every student should have the freedom to learn, and every professor should have the freedom to teach. I ask that you please consider my testimony and vote no to the bill. Thank you. I'm happy to answer any questions.