

Testimony Of Erin Richter  
Before the Senate of Higher Education Committee  
Senate Kristina D. Roegner, Chair  
February 10, 2025

Chair Roegner, Vice-Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Ingram and members of the Higher Education Committee

Hello, My name is Erin Richter, a citizen and voter of Cincinnati Ohio, and a University of Cincinnati Graduate. This state has been home for me since my first breath and it is in this loyalty that I must implore you to vote no on Ohio Senate Bill Issue 1.

This bill obscures the truth of the history of our country and harms the majority of citizens trying to aim for higher education. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion has been staple to Ohio and our country since it's founding. To try to erase the stories and struggles of our POC, LGBTQ+, and disabled communities, you are erasing the story of Ohio.

We need more DEI students in Ohio universities. More DEI programs to support these students. More chances to share culture, food, hobbies, clothing, and languages. More students building communities with those who are different from them. This builds a stronger Ohio pushing us to the economic forefront of our nation by the share of ideas, and education.

I do not feel the need to explain the hate that will come to these students with the end of DEI programs. I know you are not ignorant and, understand the effects that the passing of this bill will cause. I am instead asking for your humanity, your religion, and your soul to do what is just. Please, look past your own goals, finances, and donors, and instead think of the citizens you have promised to care for.

I ask you to be empathic, human, and just. Vote no on Ohio Senate Bill Issue 1.