

I don't know what more I can say to convince you and the other members of this committee that this bill – SB 1 – is a danger to Ohio universities, businesses, and Ohioans themselves. It will chill free speech in universities. It will lead to worse learning conditions. It will turn workers away from Ohio. But none of that matters to you.

In the name of free speech, you would curtail it; in the name of protecting education, you would make those educators more vulnerable. Despite the hundreds of people who have come before you to speak out against this bill and the danger that it poses, it is resurrected again and again. Every time, we – the people of Ohio – have risen to meet you.

For that, you – Senator Cirino – insult us. You say that our brains are mush. That we dare to participate in the political process, to make our thoughts heard, is so *aggravating* to you. Ironical, isn't it? You claim that we are the ones suppressing free speech, but the fact that we dare to use our free speech to speak out against you *infuriates* you. We will not be suppressed. We will not be controlled. We are a thorn in your side, and we will never go away, no matter how many times you insult and degrade us. We will remember, and we will continue to fight this bill, no matter how many times you bring it back.

- Tori Haller, Master's Student at OSU and Pre-service High School Educator