

Ryan Snyder - SB1 Testimony, Tuesday, February 11th

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Ohio Senate Higher Education Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide testimony today. My name is Ryan Snyder. I am an undergraduate student at OSU, and will graduate this semester with a degree in Computer Science. I am here today to oppose Senate Bill 1, also known as the Enact Advance Ohio Higher Education Act – a name which is misleading and hides the destruction that this bill will cause to students, faculty, staff, and the entire future of Ohio's education system.

This bill seeks, **vaguely**, to end DEI, also known as Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in higher education. The vagueness of the definition allows primarily for the broad destruction of *programs and scholarships that provide opportunity for the disadvantaged*. My experiences, as well those of my fellow students, have shown that our education has been improved by the DEI programs and scholarships that allow us to explore opportunities we would not have otherwise.

Yes, current DEI initiatives are flawed, **NOT** because they are discriminatory, but because **they do not go far enough**. DEI initiatives seek to level the playing field in an unfair world. In **America**, DEI initiatives not only have uplifted the oppressed working class of Black and Hispanic minorities, but also the historically poor **White** working class.

My home region of Appalachia is one the poorest and predominantly white areas in the United States that has been continuously **hurt** by politicians. I, and many of my **working class peers** have been able to receive an education **in spite of** the lack of aid from the government, **thanks to DEI scholarships** such as the Morrill scholarship. **Senate Bill 1** continues to fail Americans, and has the intended effect to **BLOCK** class mobility by limiting education and pitting us against each other, so you can continue to **exploit Ohio workers**.

This bill attacks the workers rights of higher education faculty members. You strive to restrict faculty members' right to Collective Bargaining, taking away their ability to Strike, and allowing unjust termination. Fewer academics will want to come to Ohio as you **threaten** their livelihoods. You aim to **erode** Ohio's standard of education and leave it in a state of decay.

Have any members of this committee **come down from their pedestals** to see the actual issues of students? Do you see the number of students and faculty members that are against this bill? Do you truly believe that you have our interests at heart? Many of the mocking comments I have seen from members of this Senate tell me otherwise.

There are **real** problems with higher education that this Bill could address. High cost, necessity of loans, food insecurity, and high cost of housing are issues I have seen my peers struggle with. The lack of funding for K-12 education leaves **Ohioans** unprepared for college, lacking the skills that should be afforded to all **Americans**. When will this Senate pass bills that address **real** problems?

Senate Bill 1 only inhibits our progress as a state. You, as Senators, have a responsibility to Us to address these issues affecting our quality of education, our quality of life, and our future. I ask you to consider my testimony and vote **No** on this harmful bill.

I will now answer any questions.

Ryan Snyder

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