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

Thank you for reading my testimony today. My name is Jemma Marcus-Shi and I am a resident of Dayton who grew up in Oxford, Ohio, home of Miami University. I am an alumna of Miami University and both my parents worked at Miami University, so I am very familiar with the goings on within a public university. My father, before his retirement in December, was a Chinese professor. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

I am very concerned with the vague language in SB1, especially regarding "Controversial Beliefs or Practices" and "Restrictions on Relationships with China". I am also concerned about the additional duties given to administrators without consideration of administrative bloat, which will inevitably cost money that could otherwise be used for education and student/faculty wellbeing. This is just the beginning of the negative economic implications of this bill.

The section on "Controversial Beliefs or Policies" determines controversial beliefs as those subject to **political** controversy, and doesn't take into account whether significant controversy exists within the field of study. This gives undue influence to political narratives and disregards trained experts; I think we can all agree that political controversy is not a reliable arbiter of truth. Instead, experts within a field should be relied on to determine whether or not an idea is evidence based and as a result, appropriate to be taught or endorsed. Relating to my other concern about the burden on the administrative system, it is an unreasonable standard that any student, student group, or faculty member's complaints require a response by the institution. More clarification as to the nature of the institution's required response as well as the requirements of the complaint must be explored, otherwise any debunked, fringe theory from a single bad actor will waste public funds.

The section on "Restrictions on Relationships with China" seems to imply there has been an effort by the Chinese government to provide resources to American universities to influence them negatively. Before coming to this conclusion, it should be required to cite concrete instances to demonstrate that this is the case, that Chinese collaboration is not only in service of academic advancements and instead has alternative goals, and that the Chinese government is unique among foreign governments in its attempt to influence American universities. Without such supporting evidence, this is a clearly targeted issue based on fear of China and not based in reality. Having a father who worked in the Chinese department of a public university for decades, I can say that attributing nefarious purposes to Chinese academics in collaborating with American universities does not hold true to my experience. The requirement to consult the chancellor of new or renewed academic partnerships will certainly harm academic advancement and negatively affect the quality of research at the university. This does not even take into account the negative impact of the chancellor's attention being

unnecessarily diverted to reviewing each partnership, of which there will be many based on the high volume and quality of research at Chinese universities.

This bill attempts to put politics above truth as determined by experts, leads to ballooning administrative costs, and restricts research based on fear mongering which lowers the value of an Ohio university education for all involved. The bill has huge economic implications by making Ohio universities less competitive and reliable in the eyes of the nation and globally. These are just the issues I was able to address today, but the bill is rife with others.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this vague, poorly supported, discriminatory bill that will no doubt have a negative economic impact on Ohio.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully,

Jemma Marcus-Shi
Ohio resident and Miami University alumna