

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

I appreciate the ability to submit written testimony as I am unable to travel to testify in person because I am meeting with students that day. My name is Megan Kuykendoll, and I am a parent, educator, community member, volunteer, citizen, and resident of Oxford, OH. While I am an instructor at Miami University and the testimony I am sharing leans on my experience in this role, I am not representing the university and this testimony is a personal one.

I strongly oppose SB 1 as it uproots and dismantles key tenets of what makes higher education and our institutions of higher learning so valuable. I have been part of many efforts serving our under-served student populations, including people from underrepresented groups. This includes some of the typical identities one would think of such as racially, ethnically, and sexually diverse individuals. This also includes those who are veterans, students who are parents, and students who are the first in their families to attend college. It is and continues to be a great joy to serve these students and all of my students in the classroom.

In my classroom, I ask students to participate from a place of curiosity, questioning, and care. I do not see these elements present in this bill - and this is a huge problem. Eliminating programs and initiatives designed to help struggling students succeed is not showing them care. Eliminating "DEI" programs will substantially negatively impact our classrooms, our student life, and our faculty/staff prospects. This anti-DEI movement, shown clearly in SB 1, is unjust and cruel. Diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts have always sought to improve EVERYONE'S access. We are making room for more people to have access to what they need to be successful. We cannot go backward into a space of White Supremacist, sexist, bigoted ideals, and that's what SB 1 will be doing. Our students, faculty, and staff deserve support and care, as well as the opportunity to be curious and ask questions about our world. If SB 1 passes, we will see numerous negative effects such as:

- **Loss of good students** who will seek their education elsewhere
- **Loss of excellent faculty and staff** who will go work elsewhere where their families and identities will be celebrated, not demeaned
- **Loss of businesses** who will move where they can hire the best individuals, which will no longer be our graduates
- **Loss of accreditation** of our programs such as our Social Work accreditation through NASW, whose code of ethics specifically demands social justice and anti-racism work

I ask you, what problems are you seeking to solve with SB 1? I do not see solutions here. For people needing help, this does not provide it. This only further marginalizes our amazing communities that exist in this state. Let's actually make a difference in individual and family lives, not further constrain our thinking and evidence-based practices. SB 1 is merely pandering to a small but loud constituency that does not represent the rest of us. We deeply care about our communities and neighbors, many of whom are targeted by this legislation. **We must embrace diversity to thrive**, not seek to outlaw it.

Thank you,



Megan Kuykendoll, MS, Certified Family Life Educator
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