

February 9, 2025

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

Thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony on this important issue. My name is Elizabeth Kiel Luebbe. I am a resident of Oxford, Ohio, and a Professor in the Department of Psychology at Miami University. I am writing as an individual and not as a representative of my employer, and **I am strongly opposed to Senate Bill 1.**

I am concerned about SB1 for several reasons. Limiting discourse on identity and diversity will prevent professors from providing undergraduate and graduate students with the information and skills required to get licensed as psychologists and other mental health professionals. I believe that applicants to graduate programs in psychology and other mental health professions will choose to go to other states where they can receive adequate training and thus enter the workforce there. Ohio is facing a mental health crisis, especially in our younger population, and this will only widen the gap in available services.

If professors are limited in the manners proposed in this bill, they will not choose to work in Ohio. Why would the brightest and most innovative researchers and educators come here, if they cannot get tenure and will constantly be afraid for their jobs? If unable to attract the best professors, innovation will be limited, and the reputation of Ohio universities will suffer. The best and brightest high school students will have options elsewhere, and I believe they will choose those other options, again damaging the workforce and economy in Ohio. I am fortunate to have a child who will be one of those best and brightest. If SB1 gets passed into law, I will encourage her to attend college in another state.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this harmful bill. Governor DeWine recognizes the critical importance of training mental health professionals to the health and well-being of our communities; please do not create barriers to us providing the best education possible to our students whose goals include serving the needs of your constituents. Keep our best and brightest here. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Kiel Luebbe
Oxford, OH