

February 9, 2025

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Ellen Jordan. I am a mother to four children and a User Experience designer in the financial industry. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

One of the things that I found valuable when seeking a higher education was meeting and taking classes with people from all walks of life. People with different experiences and opinions. A place where we could openly discuss current and past issues and develop our own opinions. SB 1 threatens this and will not cultivate a learning rich environment that promotes critical thinking let alone ensuring students and professors can express themselves freely. It will make faculty and students fearful to speak up or have an opinion.

If SB 1 passes, Ohio will not become a place where people seek to attend University. This could threaten our State's economy because top talent will no longer see Ohio as a place to gain their education and or teach in higher education. They will view it as a place that is behind the times. We need to move forward and continue to be inclusive, diverse and welcoming to all. Not restricting.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this harmful bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ellen Jordan". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Ellen Jordan