

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 Courtney Jackson. I am an enrollment specialist at Sinclair Community College, and I'm strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

Bill SB1 and HB 6 is a dangerous bill that will enforce misinformation and encourage students to make misguided comments and actions regarding important aspects of history and world affairs including, but not limited to, women's rights, climate change, the Civil Rights movement and the Holocaust. It's important to teach factual information in order to highlight the growth and progress that has been achieved towards equal and fair rights. Our world has witnessed atrocities towards marginalized communities that has left a lasting impact on our society. It's important to discuss these events for our community to learn from these tragedies and avoid repeating our history. In addition to this, it's imperative to bring light to current issues that are affecting our day-to-day lives such as climate change and foreign policy. To better understand the decision-making that is occurring between world leaders, there needs to be an environment that allow educators and student to discuss accurate information about these topics in order to gain a better understanding of any current or future conflicts that may occur in these areas.

Another concerning aspect of this bill is the actions towards dismantling all diversity efforts. As a college student, I greatly benefited from a diversity mentorship program that was offered at my local community college. I was paired with a mentor that provided guidance and assistance while I navigated my way through my college courses and eventual graduation. In addition to this, I've witnessed how diversity programs that are offered at my current employer, Sinclair Community

College, has brought our community together and has brought awareness to topics that have been ignored or overshadowed. While attending these programs, I've witnessed employees and students come together and engage in thoughtful conversation with the intention to further build a stronger community. Losing these programs would undo the progress that is being made to create a stronger unity and bond amongst our community that is comprised of individuals that come from various backgrounds.

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

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

*Courtney Jackson*