

February 10, 2025

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Cirino, and members of the Senate Higher Education Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Susan Hyde, and I live in Grandview Heights. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

I am incredibly concerned with DEI bans as stated in SB 1. DEI stands for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. I am not certain that legislators understand what these words mean and who they impact. DEI measures include the fair treatment and full participation of all people.

Diversity - having a variety of people

Equity - fairness in access to resources and opportunities

Inclusion - creating a welcoming environment

DEI helps to support students from underrepresented populations. This is not just a racial construct; this can include first-time students from Appalachia and other rural communities. DEI also covers students with disabilities. Many of these students need the extra support that DEI initiatives provide.

I have read through the entire bill and there are many other concerning aspects to it. Overall, it will be detrimental to higher education in Ohio.

Please vote no on SB 1.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Susan Hyde