

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 Nihar Dalal. I am a graduate student researcher in the physics department at Ohio State. I am strongly opposed to SB 1 and its companion bill HB 6.

The proposed bill will greatly inhibit several important facets of higher education. First and foremost, academic institutions benefit from diverse environments and diverse perspectives. The overall effect of this bill, namely the DEI bans and the prohibitions on diversity statements will lead to a homogeneous campus body, and directly contradict the intended purpose of "intellectual diversity" of this bill.

Furthermore, the threats of withholding funding and reporting of the violations of the guidelines of the bill clearly limit academic freedom. Universities in the United States thrive because of the freedom of researchers, faculty, and students to explore a multitude of subjects without fears of losing funding or losing their positions. The bill will certainly lead to regression in academia, as faculty and researchers will have less freedom to pursue their interests.

I am also strongly opposed to the restrictions on relationships with China - many of my colleagues and collaborators are from China, and we are all interested in the advancement of science. These restrictions will setback progress and scientific advancement for decades to come.

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

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Nihar Dalal