

To the Chair of the Higher Education Committee Senator Kristina D. Roegner and Higher Education Committee Members: Vice Chair, Senator Jerry C. Cirino, Ranking Member Catherine D. Ingram, Senator Case Weinstein, Senator Kyle Koehler, Senator Bill Reineke, Senator Jane M. Timken:

As an Ohio resident for over 40+ years and a public university graduate, I have concerns about SB 1 and oppose this bill. The idea of higher education is to introduce students to a wide variety of subjects, to learn about different ideas from history to present day, and meet people from other backgrounds and countries. There are three items that I find particularly concerning, first is the "DEI ban" as Diversity, Equity and Inclusion is a good thing as having people of all backgrounds in staff and training can offer a variety of perspectives. Second, "No positions on controversial beliefs," which includes marriage, abortion, immigration, climate, politics, etc., which is absurd as a healthy debate is central to academic life, and to critical thinking, and there is nothing wrong with discussing gay marriage, reproductive rights, global warming, and Constitutionally protected birthright citizenship, etc. Lastly, "Online Syllabi," as what is taught in a classroom should be available to the adult student who is paying for the class, and not for public view by someone who is not paying for the class, and whose objective may be to complain and shut a class down over a topic they don't like. For these main reasons, I urge you to OPPOSE SB 1 if you believe in protecting the academic freedom of higher education and other basic civil rights. Please add my comments to the public record opposing SB 1 and my Witness Slip is attached.

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