

I am writing to express my concerns about SB1, which I believe will have far-reaching consequences beyond Ohio's public college faculty.

While SB1 seems to be driven by a desire to protect students from perceived indoctrination by faculty, these concerns appear to be rooted in misunderstandings by Senator Jerry Cirino and others who may not fully grasp the dynamics of a college classroom. Higher education is built on fostering critical thinking, diverse perspectives, and open dialogue—essential elements for developing informed, independent thinkers. Attempts to limit these freedoms could ultimately undermine the very educational experience that helps students thrive in a global economy.

I feel that SB1 will lead to a brain drain in Ohio. Although I am not a parent, many of my friends who are have indicated that their children plan to attend college outside of Ohio, anticipating that SB1 will negatively impact the quality of education in the state. Once these students leave the state, the likelihood of them returning to contribute their talents and expertise is minimal.

In addition to the potential loss of talent, SB1 could also have significant economic repercussions. Ohio is already struggling to keep pace with the rapidly evolving tech economy, and SB1 could exacerbate this issue. With fewer skilled graduates remaining in Ohio, the state risks losing a valuable workforce essential for innovation and economic growth. The long-term effects could undermine Ohio's competitiveness and hinder its ability to attract and retain businesses in the tech industry.

The above reasons are why I ask that you vote no on SB1.