Good morning,

On April 18th, 2022 the Undergraduate Student Government convened for our second and final meeting of the Spring semester and in so doing passed Senate Resolution 2022-2023 01 entitled “A Resolution Formally Denouncing Ohio H.B. 616”

The Undergraduate Student Government aims always to promote and expand values of diversity and inclusion both here at Bowling Green State University as well as in the broader Ohio community. This House Bill represents a pull in the opposite direction of the work we are doing as a university and as an Undergraduate Student Government. Therefore, the student body and the university leadership ought to respond swiftly and strongly in opposition to Ohio H.B. 616.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me via email at znoesen@bgsu.edu

Thank you,

Zachary Noesen

Undergraduate Student Government President
THE SENATE OF THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT BODY

S.R. 2022/2023 – 01

A Resolution Formally Denouncing Ohio H.B. 616

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT BODY

Date:

04/11/22

Authored by:

Taylor Vanek - QTSU Senator; Hannah Boyle - Senator At-Large

Sponsored by:

Sourab Shaik - Senator at Large, Noah Oettinger - Military Student Senator,

Damon Sherry - Diversity Affairs Senator Elyse Adrian - Senator at Large

04/18/22

Approved by the Senate of the Undergraduate Student Body, and prepared for the presentation to the president of the Undergraduate Student Government

04/20/22

Approved by the president of the Undergraduate Student Government, and so order into effect.

Gabe Wagner
Speaker of the Senate Government

Zachary Noesen
President of the Undergraduate Student Government
S.R. 2022/2023 – 01

A Resolution Formally Denouncing Ohio H.B. 616

In the Senate of the Undergraduate Student Body here assembled,

1. Whereas, the Undergraduate Student Government represents the undergraduate student voice
2. at Bowling Green State University; and

3. Whereas, Bowling Green State University and the Undergraduate Student Government
4. aim to ensure all student voices are represented within the Senate; and

5. Whereas, the Queer Trans Student Union at Bowling Green State University aims to represent
6. and advocate for all LGBTQIA+ community members; and

7. Whereas, individuals who have identities that intersect with the LGBTQIA+ community need
8. to be equally represented and advocated for; and

9. Whereas, Ohio House Bill 616¹ is an egregious attack on the communities that make up and
10. are represented by the Queer Trans Student Union, the Undergraduate Student Government,
11. and the entire student body of Bowling Green State University; and

12. Whereas, the hateful nature of Ohio House Bill 616 is intolerable and action needs to be
13. taken against its passing; and

14. Whereas, the condemnation of Ohio House Bill 616 is not a political stance, but is instead a
15. defense of the sanctity of education in Ohio in regards to the issues of diversity, equity, and
16. inclusivity; and

17. Whereas, Ohio House Bill 616 aims to ensure that educators that do not conform face
18. consequences, as stated in Sec. 3313.6029., “(C) No teacher shall receive continuing
19. education credit or other credit required for licensure renewal for any seminar or other
20. program that teaches, promotes, or endorses divisive or inherently racist concepts”; and

21. Whereas, Ohio House Bill 616 explicitly opposes the teaching of diversity topics that fall
22. under the definition of divisive or inherently racist concepts which as, stated in
23. Sec. 3313.6029. (A), are “(a) Critical race theory; (b) Intersectional theory; (c) The 1619

¹ H.B. 616
24. project; (d) Diversity, equity, and inclusion learning outcomes; (e) Inherited racial guilt; (f) Any other concept that the state board of education defines as divisive or inherently racist, in accordance with rules adopted under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code.”; and

27. Whereas, historic and systemic racism undeniably exist and were a key component to the foundation and development of our country; and

29. Whereas, the enslavement, mistreatment, and bigotry faced by these marginalized groups in the United States have had indisputable persisting effects on the ways in which these groups are treated by society in our present culture; and

32. Whereas, the discrimination of other marginalized groups such as the LGBTQIA+ community has also persisted in the United States and affected the history and development of the country; and

35. Whereas, Ohio House Bill 616 also explicitly opposes the teaching of sexual orientation or gender identity, as stated in Sec. 3313.6029., “With respect to a student in any of grades kindergarten through three, teach, use, or provide any curriculum or instructional materials on sexual orientation or gender identity”; and

39. Whereas, Ohio House Bill 616 additionally extends opposition of the teaching of sexual orientation or gender identity to any grades four through twelve with the contingency that no teacher shall teach in, as stated in Sec. 3313.6029., “any manner that is not age-appropriate or developmentally appropriate for students in accordance with state standards.”; and

43. Whereas, denying the existence of LGBTQIA+ children will undoubtedly create an environment that puts LGBTQIA+ children at greater risk of bullying, mental health issues, and physical harm; and

46. Whereas, House Bill 616 and other legislation like it attempts to undermine and undo decades of progress and affirmation of our LGBTQIA+ community members; and

48. Whereas, the students in Ohio’s K-12 schools should receive an education that addresses America’s diversity and the strength and importance that comes along with that diversity; and

50. Whereas, House Bill 616 will create a biased and inherently bigoted system of procedure and punishment, as stated by Sec. 3313.6029., “by which an individual may file a complaint against a teacher, school administrator, or school district superintendent alleging a violation of division (B) or (C) of this section. (2) The state board shall afford the teacher, school administrator, or school district superintendent an opportunity for a hearing in accordance with sections 119.01 to 119.13 of the Revised Code. (3) If the superintendent of public
56. instruction finds that the teacher, school administrator, or school district superintendent
57. violated division (B) or (C) of this section, the department of education shall issue an
58. adjudication order in accordance with section 119.06 of the Revised Code taking licensure
59. action based upon the severity of the offense, including, but not limited to, an official
60. licensure admonishment, licensure suspension, or licensure revocation. (4) If the
61. superintendent of public instruction finds through a complaint filed in accordance with
62. division (D) of this section that a school district has violated division (B) or (C) of this
63. section, the department of education shall withhold funds from the district based upon the
64. severity of the offense and time frame by which the district complies, which may include a
65. tiered funding penalty, terms for restoration of those funds in the event of compliance, and
66. any other procedures that the department determines are necessary to enforce the prohibitions
67. described in divisions (B) and (C) of this section.”; and

68. Whereas, the ability to file complaints led against teachers, school administrators, and
69. school district superintendents will create a system for the persistent persecution and
70. acostment of Ohio’s K-12 school staff and administrators based on the presumption of the
71. possible discussion of diversity, equity, and inclusivity topics; and

72. Whereas, denying the existence of these issues in K-12 institutions would be a disservice to
73. not only the children in these schools, but to the generations of people affected by these
74. discriminatory historical events and social behaviors; and

75. Whereas, Inclusive Culturally Responsive Educators\(^2\) stands in opposition to the bill on their
76. petition against House Bill 616 they state, “If this bill is passed students across the state of
77. Ohio will not be allowed to use the classroom as a space to understand cultures and identities
78. outside of their own. If this bill is passed students will be shamed into believing their identity
79. and culture do not belong inside classroom spaces”; and

80. Whereas, LGBT Cleveland\(^3\) strongly opposes this bill because, “words on paper cannot erase
81. our voice, our progress, our existence. These actions are spawned from intolerance and
82. fear.”; and

83. Whereas, Stone Wall Columbus\(^4\), central Ohio’s lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and
84. queer (LGBTQ\(^+\)) community organization, also condemns this bill because, “I think this
85. legislation directly impacts young people in the most formative times in their lives and what

\(^2\) Inclusive Culturally Responsive Educators
\(^3\) LGBT Cleveland
\(^4\) Stone Wall Columbus
86. we will continue to see is that will impact them as they grow and possibly leave the state"; 87. and

88. Whereas, the Ohio Education Association\(^5\), too, is equally opposed to this bill releasing a 89. press conference with their President Scott Dimauro citing that, “These politicians are 90. continuing to use race and sexual orientation as wedge issues to score cheap political points, 91. and they should be ashamed of themselves”; and

92. Therefore, let it be Resolved, the Undergraduate Student Government and the Queer Trans 93. Student Union of Bowling Green State University urge all students, faculty, and staff to 94. contact the Wood County Ohio House Representative Haraz Ghanbari (Phone: (614) 95. 466-8104, Email: rep03@ohiohouse.gov) and/or District 08 Representative, including BGSU 96. Firelands Campus, D.J. Swearingen (Phone: (614) 644-6011, Email: rep89@ohiohouse.gov) 97. and demand that they downvote these measures; and

98. Let it be Further Resolved, the Undergraduate Student Government and the Queer Trans 99. Student Union of Bowling Green State University also urge all students, faculty, and staff to 100. contact their county representatives whose contact information can be accessed at the 101. ohio.gov\(^6\) website found at the bottom of this page; and

102. Let it be Further Resolved, the Undergraduate Student Government and the Queer Trans 103. Student Union of Bowling Green State University urge students, faculty, and staff to sign 104. the petition, entitled *Standing in Opposition to House Bill 616*\(^7\) accessed at the website 105. found at the bottom of this page, demanding the bills be voted down; and

106. Let it be Further Resolved, the Undergraduate Student Government and the Queer Trans 107. Student Union of Bowling Green State University call for Bowling Green State University 108. and its peer institutions to take active measures to oppose these bills; and

109. Let it be Further Resolved, the Undergraduate Student Government and the Queer Trans 110. Student Union of Bowling Green State University urge that the Ohio House Bill 616 be 111. voted down in the Ohio House of Representatives.

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\(^5\) Ohio Education Association  
\(^6\) https://ohio.gov/government  
\(^7\) https://www.change.org/p/standing-in-opposition-to-house-bill-616
THE SENATE OF THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT BODY

Passed by the Senate and ordered presented to the president of the Undergraduate Student Body for Approval or Veto.

[Signature]
Gabe Wagner
Speaker of the Senate

I do hereby approve and order this legislation into effect.

[Signature]
Zachary Noesen
President of the Undergraduate Student Government

I do hereby disapprove and order this legislation to be returned to the Senate.

[Signature]
Zachary Noesen
President of the Undergraduate Student Government