

THE SENATE OF THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT BODY

S.R. 2024/2025 – 01

A Resolution Formally Opposing Ohio Senate Bill 1

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT BODY

1/29/2025

Authored by:

Abigail Burger - Internal Affairs Chair, **Tiago Gobetti Gaboardi** – Director of Inclusion and Belonging

Sponsored by:

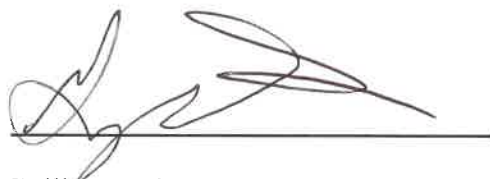
D'Mya Bown – Multicultural and Accessibility Senator, **Anna McRay** – Honors College Senator, **Isabella Lane** – Diversity Affairs Senator, **Karlee Heilman** – Senator at Large, **William Hattery** – Student Affairs Chair, **Elyse Adrian** – President

2/10/2025

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

2/10/2025

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

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gyllien Anderson', written over a horizontal line.

Gyllien Anderson

A handwritten signature in black ink, clearly legible as 'Elyse Adrian', written over a horizontal line.

Elyse Adrian

S.R. 2024/2025 – 01

A Resolution Formally Opposing Ohio Senate Bill 1

In the Senate of the Undergraduate Student Body here assembled,

- 1 **Whereas**, the Undergraduate Student Government represents the undergraduate student voice at
2 Bowling Green State University; and
- 3 **Whereas**, Bowling Green State University and the Undergraduate Student Government aim to
4 ensure all student voices are represented within our Senate; and
- 5 **Whereas**, among other things, Ohio Senate Bill 1 would ban Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
6 training, prohibit university staff from striking, and restrict classroom discussion on controversial
7 topics in private and public higher education institutions; and
- 8 **Whereas**, the Bill includes topics such as climate policies, electoral politics, foreign policy,
9 diversity, equity, and inclusion programs, immigration policy, marriage, or abortion as
10 controversial topics; and
- 11 **Whereas**, the undergraduate student body believes these topics are critical to student education,
12 development, and classroom discussion; and
- 13 **Whereas**, the Bill may lower the quality of student education in Ohio by inhibiting open
14 dialogue and critical discussion in classrooms, which are essential to academic growth and the
15 development of well-rounded students; and
- 16 **Whereas**, the Undergraduate Student Government has a responsibility to ensure that students are
17 receiving a quality education, and that student voices are heard and represented both in and out
18 of the classroom; and
- 19 **Whereas**, the prohibition of striking by public employees as stated in Senate Bill 1 directly
20 affects the capacity of the faculty to unionize and advocate for better working conditions; and
- 21 **Whereas**, the lack of ideal work conditions affects the teaching capabilities of the professors,
22 which directly impacts the student's learning outcomes in their classes; and
- 23 **Whereas**, the restriction of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training in the Bill may reduce
24 awareness and understanding of diverse perspectives and hinder efforts to create an inclusive
25 campus environment; and
- 26 **Whereas**, the Undergraduate Student Government is committed to supporting a diverse and
27 inclusive academic community where all voices and perspectives are valued and respected; and

28 **Whereas**, restricting training dismisses the historical and present advantages and disadvantages
29 one may experience because of their race or sex; and

30 **Whereas**, Senate Bill 1 includes language that restricts institutions from using diversity
31 statements or any ideological criteria in hiring, admissions, and promotion decisions; and

32 **Whereas**, this could hinder efforts to create a diverse and representative academic community
33 for faculty, staff, and students; and

34 **Whereas**, Senate Bill 1 also prohibits the creation of new scholarships that “use diversity,
35 equity, and inclusion in any manner”; and

36 **Whereas**, the Undergraduate Student Government advocates for student financial wellbeing and
37 wants all student to have the ability to pursue and fund their education; and

38 **Whereas**, prohibiting new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion scholarships limits the universities'
39 ability to financially help students in minority groups that may be facing or have faced hardships;
40 and

41 **Whereas**, this provision ignores the systematic struggles that minority groups face when
42 pursuing and funding higher education and limits the opportunities these students have to fund
43 their education; and

44 **Whereas**, the Bill also requires public reporting of speaker fees, mandates a review of Diversity,
45 Equity, and Inclusion programming, and establishes processes for responding to complaints
46 about alleged violations, creating administrative burdens that may discourage institutions from
47 engaging with diverse speakers and topics; and

48 **Whereas**, the Bill’s provisions against Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training in admissions
49 and hiring could have a negative effect on intellectual freedom, reducing opportunities for
50 students and staff to gain exposure to diverse perspectives and making it challenging to uphold
51 Bowling Green State University’s mission to create common good; and

52 **Whereas**, other Undergraduate Student Governments at universities across the state of Ohio
53 have come out in opposition of OH SB 1, including students at Ohio State University, the
54 University of Akron, and the University of Dayton; and

55 **Whereas**, the Undergraduate Student Government of Bowling Green State University has signed
56 a collective testimony with the universities listed above opposing SB 1 that will be presented to
57 the Ohio Committee on Higher Education, and

58 **Therefore, let it be resolved**, the Undergraduate Student Government of Bowling Green State
59 University formally opposes Ohio Senate Bill 1, citing concerns that it’s provisions may
60 undermine academic freedom, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion efforts, and the quality of student
61 learning; and

62 **Let it be further resolved that** the Ohio Legislature listen to student voices when making
63 legislation regarding higher education and place the student experience above political agendas;
64 and

65 **Let it be finally resolved that;** the Ohio Legislature refocus its attention to legislation that is
66 important to and supports students in higher education rather than limiting the classroom and
67 campus experience.

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.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Gyllien Anderson', written over a horizontal line.

Gyllien Anderson

Speaker of the Senate

I do hereby approve and order this legislation into effect.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Elyse Adrian', written over a horizontal line.

Elyse Adrian

President of the Undergraduate Student Government

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

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Elyse Adrian

President of the Undergraduate Student Government