

RESOLUTION NO. 12 - 2025

EXPRESSING the opposition of the Mayor and Council for Senate Bill 1; and **URGING** the Ohio House of Representatives to defeat this bill that would prohibit diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts at Ohio's public universities of higher education.

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 1 ("SB 1"), passed by the Ohio Senate on February 12, 2025 and introduced in the Ohio House of Representatives on February 18, 2025, prohibits diversity, equity, and inclusion ("DEI") efforts at Ohio's public universities; and

WHEREAS, if SB 1 is enacted, public colleges could no longer conduct any orientation or training course regarding DEI, have a DEI office or department, use DEI in job descriptions, or offer any new scholarships that use DEI in any manner; and

WHEREAS, universities would have to declare that they will not take positions on any controversial beliefs or policies, defined as any belief or policy that is the subject of political controversy, including climate policies, electoral politics, foreign policy, DEI programs, immigration policy, marriage, or abortion; and

WHEREAS, this bill allows the General Assembly to withhold or reduce funding to a state university if it determines such university has failed to comply with these anti-DEI policies; and

WHEREAS, in addition to prohibiting DEI efforts, this bill also bans faculty from striking, shortens the terms of university boards of trustees, and requires students take an American civic literacy course that includes the study of the American economic system and capitalism, among other things; and

WHEREAS, students and professors at Ohio's public universities are concerned that if SB 1 is enacted, students will choose to pursue a college degree in other states outside Ohio where they can learn in a diverse environment and express their speech freely; and

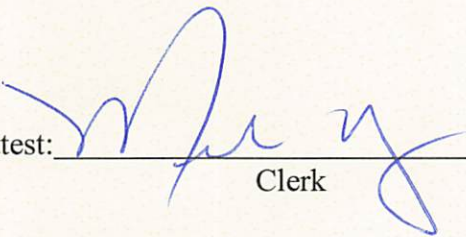
WHEREAS, this Council wants to preserve and promote DEI efforts at Ohio's public universities that would be prohibited by passage of SB 1; now, therefore,

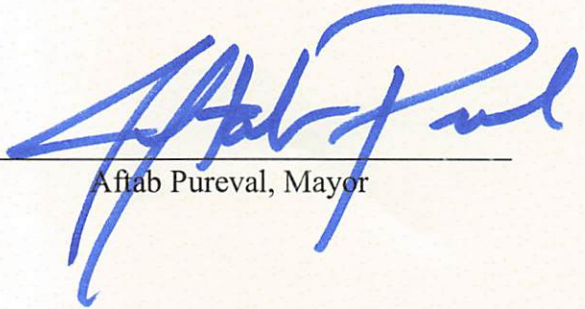
BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That this Council strongly opposes Senate Bill 1 and urges the Ohio House of Representatives to defeat this bill that would prohibit diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts at Ohio's public universities of higher education.

Section 2. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council and that copies be provided to Governor Mike DeWine and all members of the Ohio General Assembly whose districts include the City of Cincinnati.

Passed: March 12, 2025

Attest: 
Clerk


Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Submitted by Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney, Councilmember Anna Albi, and Councilmembers Jeff Cramerding, Mark Jeffreys, Meeka Owens, and Seth Walsh