

# OFT Human Rights Committee

## 2026 Resolution

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### RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FREE SPEECH AND ACADEMIC FREEDOM

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3 WHEREAS, the 136th General Assembly passed the Advance Ohio Higher Education Act  
4 (Senate Bill 1); and

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6 WHEREAS, Governor Mike DeWine signed it into law on March 28, 2025; and

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8 WHEREAS, the law became effective on June 27, 2025; and

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10 WHEREAS, the law eliminates diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs at public  
11 universities and colleges; and

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13 WHEREAS, the law declares “faculty and staff shall allow and encourage students to reach their  
14 own conclusions about all controversial beliefs or policies and shall not seek to indoctrinate any  
15 social, political, or religious point of view”; and

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17 WHEREAS, the law defines controversial beliefs as “any belief or policy that is the subject of  
18 political controversy, including issues such as climate policies, electoral politics, foreign policy,  
19 diversity, equity, and inclusion programs, immigration policy, marriage, or abortion”; therefore,

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21 BE IT RESOLVED, the OFT is committed to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in  
22 education; and

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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the OFT affirms that the decision to eliminate DEI programs is  
25 politically-motivated and made without merit; and

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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the OFT holds that mandates for intellectual diversity born out of  
28 fear of indoctrination run counter to the tenets of free speech and academic inquiry; and

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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the OFT believes elimination of DEI programs will have a chilling  
31 effect on the free speech of students, staff, and faculty at Ohio’s public colleges and  
32 universities; and

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34 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, OFT members will challenge state lawmakers to support free  
35 speech and academic freedom at all levels of education.

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37 Source: [ORC Section 3345.0217 | Policy on diversity, equity, and inclusion and other concepts.](#)