

Mister Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today regarding Senate Bill 90.

My name is Alli Lowe and I am a student at Miami University. I stand before you today representing college students across the United States who have been forced into silence in the name of intolerance on their campuses. I stand before you today representing those who still believe the First Amendment is the backbone of this nation.

As the President of Miami University Students for Life, I have experienced attacks on my free speech rights by both my fellow students and administration. In 2017, our group was forced to file a federal lawsuit against Miami University after the administration began requiring trigger warning signs for our displays because they were polarizing and emotionally offensive. Miami's administration took a stand that day, saying that free speech hinges upon the individual emotions of a few. Because some individuals simply did not want to see our display, suddenly our free speech was subject to their opinions.

Just this past spring, when my group decided to bring a pro-life speaker to campus for a speaking event, our promotional materials were vandalized and destroyed daily for weeks. We found our posters in trash cans, ripped up, or replaced with pro-choice flyers. We repeatedly reached out to multiple members of the administration to no avail. One member of the administration specifically said they simply did not want to get involved.

When free speech is at stake, it is not only our job to get involved, but it is our duty to get involved. Even if an administration does not encourage free speech violations, choosing to remain silent is just as unacceptable. Every single time my organization chooses to host a display or a campus event, our voices are silenced by our fellow students. And our administration, they simply sit back and watch.

Across college campuses throughout the nation, free speech has become selective. Free speech only applies for beliefs that the administration agrees with and is a flexible code depending on what organization you claim membership to. Free speech only applies when it is convenient and when it is not hard for an administration to defend. This hostility spearheaded by college administrations has to come to an end.

This is why I have recently become an official member of Young Americans for Liberty. They are a nation-wide organization that accepts self-described liberals, conservatives, and every ideology in between. They know how important free speech is to the experiment that is the

United States of America. They are leading the charge to restore power back to the people, and I am happy to join their movement.

I know I am not alone in this fight and I am happy to have an organization like Young Americans for Liberty in my corner, defending my right to free speech.

Though I am just one college student, students across the nation are being stripped of their 1st Amendment rights. There is a war on free speech across college campuses, whether we acknowledge it or not. College administrations are taking the Constitution into their own hands and silencing anyone who does not push their agenda or makes their students uncomfortable.

I believe that free speech is applicable to everyone and does not depend on what side of the aisle you stand on. For many, college is the first time that individuals have the opportunity to see the world through their own eyes and think independently. By shielding students from seeing both sides, we are telling them they are not capable or smart enough to think for themselves. The day that we cease to fight for each other's right to free speech, despite whatever the content of that free speech may be, is the day that America ceases to be America. I ask you all to take a stand and support Senate Bill 90 because our college students do not just deserve to have a voice, they have the right to have a voice.