

Committee Chair and Members:

As the House Higher Education Committee, I trust that you are concerned about higher education in Ohio and the potential impact of HB 151. I am very interested in the work of this committee **and strongly oppose SB 83** as a piece of legislation. I work closely with students who want to be creative leaders in digital arts and graphic design. Honestly, the "Ohio Higher Education Enhancement Act" will fail to enhance employment and leadership opportunities for these students. As a Teaching Professor at Bowling Green State University, I can attest to how engagement with diversity and contemporary issues really motivates students to create products for wider and also specifically targeted audiences. Being aware of and conversant in all sides of any issue makes them better communicators, more creative thinkers, and critically engaged leaders -- all necessary and prized skills. Faculty are best positioned to meet this need. We are experts in our fields and can quickly and effectively respond to contemporary issues in ways that help students better understand their impact. The arts have a rich tradition, but also a contemporary fluidity. Students seeking to work in animation, for example, need more than digital skills. They need to have a well-rounded experience of cultural story-telling and how to best position an audience within that story at this particular moment in time. Arts industry employers are looking for creative and critical thinkers who can thoughtfully respond to our contemporary moment. Restricting how we teach and learn about diversity can leave our students "behind the moment" and underprepared. The intended and unintended consequences of HB 151 will negatively impact Ohio's students, leaving them disadvantaged in the competitive arts industries, nationally and globally.

Thank you for your time and service on behalf of concerned Ohio citizens.

Sincerely,

Marcelle M. Dupay
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