

Testimony of Leah S. Dunn, EdD, OTR/L
Before the House Higher Education Committee
Rep. Tom Young, Chair

May 15, 2023

Chair Young, Ranking Member Miller, and Members of the Higher Education Committee:

My name is Leah S. Dunn, and I am an associate professor of Occupational Therapy at Xavier University, where I have taught for 10 years. I do not represent Xavier University, but rather am submitting testimony as a private citizen to Substitute House Bill 151.

This bill will undermine quality higher education for Ohio's students. While the bill does not yet affect private institutions, I am concerned with the ramifications of it. Without exposure to other perspectives, students in higher education institutions in Ohio will not develop the critical thinking skills that are crucial to democracy. By limiting perspectives or ignoring the vast number of perspectives in the U.S., our society will continue to divide into ideological and political subgroups, all without civil discord.

Furthermore, this is also the largest attack on union rights since Senate Bill 5 in 2011. SB 83 should be stopped. The tenure process must be protected at the institution level to ensure the civil discussion of ideological and political viewpoints.

Sincerely,



Leah S. Dunn, EdD, OTR/L