

Testimony of Elizabeth F. Bustle, M.Ed.  
Before the House Higher Education Committee  
Rep. Tom Young, Chair  
Wednesday May 17, 2023

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

My name is Elizabeth Bustle, and I am submitting testimony as a member of Third Act – Ohio in opposition to Substitute House Bill 151.

I am a retired educator and farmer living in Greene County, Ohio. I have a bachelor's degree from Wright State University and a master's degree in education from the University of Dayton. I have raised five children, all of whom grew up to obtain degrees in higher education from institutions in the State of Ohio. I am a grandmother of 10 lovely, bright, and curious grandchildren, all of whom I hope will continue this tradition.

I am shocked and horrified that the house is considering this bill, which is an attempt muzzle our educators. How can an educator do their job if they do not feel free to express an opinion for fear it might consider it controversial? The basis of a good education is free unhampered exploration of knowledge. Any limitation to this exploration will by necessity limit a person's intellectual achievement. HB 151 bill directly and deliberately hampers this kind of intellectual and academic investigation. It is an affront to the freedom of thought and speech our country is based on.

Thank you for reading this testimony. Please vote No for this harmful and unpatriotic bill.