

Testimony of Amrita Dhar, PhD, Assistant Professor of English at The Ohio State University  
Before the House Higher Education Committee  
Rep. Tom Young, Chair

16 May 2023

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

My name is Amrita Dhar and I am a professor of English Literature at The Ohio State University, where I have taught for almost 5 years. I do not represent my institution, but rather am submitting testimony as a concerned citizen in opposition to House Bill 151. I do, however, speak as a longtime educator and lifelong advocate for free speech and diversity of ideas.

I see HB 83 151 fully and violently impeding academic freedom and therefore oppose it wholeheartedly.

Let me name also only three points on which I feel strongly about. The realities of 1. white privilege, 2. inequities of power as faced by BIPOC communities and disabled communities and queer communities, and 3. necessary recognition of and work to halt climate change are all well documented in scientific and academic work today. I want to be clear that to call diversity training or discussion of climate change “controversial” is to be part of the problem, not the solution.

I also condemn HB 151’s attack on academic tenure and on collective bargaining.

Again, I wholeheartedly oppose HB 151, which I can only see as Ohio’s Anti-Education Bill, and which, if passed, will cause irreparable harm to students of all stripes in Ohio now and for long years into the future.