

Testimony of John G. Holden, PhD  
Before the House Higher Education Committee  
Rep. Tom Young, Chair  
May 16, 2023

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

My name is John G. Holden, and I am an associate professor of Psychology at the University of Cincinnati, where I have taught for 13 years. I do not represent the University of Cincinnati, but rather am submitting testimony as a private citizen in opposition to Substitute House Bill 151.

About \$69 billion in economic activity is attributed to Ohio's state Universities. Global technological and economic change is accelerating. Ohio requires a robust, flexible economy and a well-educated work-ready workforce. Stable, highly productive universities are crucial for meeting and responding to the demands of change. Ohio families, and families around the world routinely send students to Ohio for a rigorous education. This gives Ohio organizations a huge edge in talent recruitment and economic growth. It reliably brings income for tuition, housing, and countless other uses into the state.

An important reason Ohio, and many other US Universities, are so innovative and productive are the job protections and worker rights that are encoded in collective bargaining, the right to strike, and tenure. Our workload, tenure, and promotion procedures are rigorous, and long proven. All our faculty are continually assessed and mentored with an eye toward innovation and productivity.

Many other countries, such as China, India, Russia, and Turkey have universities that rely on the weak job protections and State curriculum and productivity interference proposed in HB 151. These Universities are well recognized as major sources of fake science and they are not known as economic drivers, or world-wide education destinations. In Texas, discussions like HB 151 already undermined the viability of UT Austin in the eyes of its faculty.

Finally, the proposal in HB 151 to publish all syllabi from all programs and courses originating from the Ohio's institutions on the internet is a vast, inexplicable, but free and wholesale distribution of Ohio instructor's and the State's intellectual property. It would allow any entity or agent, foreign or domestic, belligerent or benign, instant and complete access to download the materials, methods, and organization of countless credential and degree programs, medical, scientific, engineering - everything. Essentially, HB 151 enables anyone in the world to freely clone Ohio's higher education system. Our alumni will be rightfully furious if the legislature gives away so much knowledge they paid for.

For these and other reasons, I am completely opposed HB 151, and the related bill SB 83. I urge you to oppose the HB 151 plans to undermine and dismantle Ohio higher education.