

I am writing in strong opposition of SB 83, house bill 151 and a junior, tenure-track research professor. I understand this will give 50% of our annual teaching review score to the student evaluations of the instructor (SEIs). This is given to young persons unearned, as they have not yet been in the workforce major role and have not yet been held accountable to the state. They therefore do not understand workforce responsibility or longterm responsibility in general. Most upper education students come from privilege and therefore do not understand the threat to their paycheck based on someone's opinion of them. Their parents have delivered their financial comfort and they have not been required to earn it themselves. In general, 90% of SEIs are similar in fashion to yelp reviews, where they complain with anonymity and therefore cruelty and objectification (of the instructor). Our doors are open and we are available for feedback, which is almost never delivered personally. We have zero ability to address the criticism as SEIs grow more popular and powerful. You are proposing to give the unearned power by making so much of our annual review based on their opinion. I have seen SEIs vary widely for myself and others, despite teaching the same class. In particular, the last few years of lockdown have made the student body particularly irate and they are taking their emotions out on the faculty since that is the only power you have allotted them in recent years. Secondly, requiring 30 credit hours annually is literally insane. I teach less than 10 hours and I struggle to find time to mentor my lab members and perform research. Teaching takes far more time than the credit hours reflect, approximately 10-20 times more than the numbers reflect. I do not know any teaching or research faculty who teach 30 credit hours/year. The youngest generation of faculty will leave because we will know you have made success impossible. We will go to other states or simply leave academia altogether, which is already an issue for Ohio faculty. The oldest will retire because you will break that camel's back with the last straw in a system that poorly supports its faculty. You will be left with no one to train future generations except for a few individuals who will struggle even more to succeed. Most importantly, you will see research dollars disappear from the state as these faculty leave for more supportive states (or leave academia altogether) and/or are fired due to the impossible tasks you set before them. You will destroy OSU's reputations as a fine academic institution with this bill. Academia is known to be incredibly hard for the student and the faculty. Do not make it harder. Do not ruin our future generations by ruining those who are shaping them.