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Chair Young, Ranking Member Miller and members of the Ohio House Higher Education Committee. Thank you for allowing me to testify in opposition to HB 151. My name is Jeff Dieringer and I'm with SEIU 1199 WV/KY/OH. We represent over 1,000 workers in multiple public higher learning institutions in Ohio. HB 151 is an extremely dangerous piece of legislation that would not only harm workers, but also students and communities.

HB 151 is filled with mandates and provisions which worsen learning and working conditions for faculty, staff, and students. One of the mandates removes workers' right to strike and their right to use their collective voice to better their working conditions and help students. When workers fight for better working conditions, they are better able to serve their students in pursuit of higher education. Workers never strike except as a last resort and when it is in the best interest of their students, families and the communities they serve.

These workers are not just limited to professors, but all classified workers at a given public higher learning institution. These workers are vital for the functioning of our higher learning institutions and their rights would be revoked under HB 151. In consequence, this bill would make it harder to attract students and workers to our public colleges and universities and degrade the overall quality of higher education in Ohio.

HB 151 is an unnecessary attack on labor rights and is bad for workers, bad for students, and bad for the Ohio communities our workers serve. HB 151 would not achieve its' objective of promoting free speech and ensuring our institutions are inclusive of all ideas and thoughts, it would silence them and insert unnecessary government interference into institutions that are already incubators of innovation and a marketplace of diverse thought. Thank you. I will take any questions the committee may have.

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