

Testimony of Gary M. Ciuba, Ph.D., Professor of English
Before the House Higher Education Committee
Rep. Tom Young, Chair
12 May 2023

Chair Young, Ranking Member Miller, and Members of the Higher Education Committee:
My name is Gary M. Ciuba, and I am a professor of English at Kent State University at Trumbull, where I have taught for thirty-seven years. I do not represent Kent State, but rather am submitting testimony as a private citizen in opposition to Substitute House Bill 151. I have loved my thirty-seven years of teaching at Kent State. However, I write today not as a professor but as a grandfather of twelve, ranging in age from fourteen to less than a year. I hope that all of my grandchildren attend higher education in Ohio, but this bill would cause the quality of education for my grandchildren--and all the citizens of Ohio--to deteriorate drastically.

It would discourage the kinds of classroom conversations that Ohio students need to hear so that they are prepared for their professional lives in a diverse and challenging world. In the name of promoting intellectual diversity, it would thus constrict intellectual diversity. It would create a mandate that was impossible to fulfill by requiring annual performance evaluations for all full-time faculty; for example, at Kent State, the University would somehow have to review over 900 faculty members every year. It would impose an unmanageable administrative burden on the Chancellor to approve exceptions to the course restrictions on DEI. It would place the entire state at a disadvantage in recruiting faculty members because prospective professors would not choose to work amid such unfavorable conditions (including the "no-strike" provision and limitations on bargaining issues).

I do not want my grandchildren educated in a state system with so many disadvantages for students, faculty, and administrators. And so for the sake of my grandchildren and all of our grandchildren around the state, I ask that you do not support this destructive legislation.