

SENATE BILL 83 SPONSOR TESTIMONY
SENATOR JERRY CIRINO

CHAIRMAN YOUNG, VICE CHAIR MANNING AND RANKING MEMBER MILLER-:

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT SPONSOR TESTIMONY ON THE RECENTLY PASSED SB 83. SINCE I WAS RECENTLY HERE AS A PROPONENT OF HB 151, THE COMPANION BILL, I DON'T THINK I WILL NEED TO GO OVER THE ENTIRE BILL. HOWEVER, THERE HAS BEEN MUCH MISINFORMATION SPREAD ABOUT THIS BILL, SOME FOR LACK OF STUDY OF THE BILL, SOME FOR NOT ACTUALLY READING THE BILL AND MUCH PURPOSEFUL MISINFORMATION.

THE RECENTLY ADOPTED SUB BILL IN BOTH CHAMBERS CLARIFIED MANY THINGS AND MODIFIED MANY THINGS WHICH PLEASED MANY INTERESTED PARTIES. SOME WILL NEVER ACCEPT ANY PART OF THE BILL. THAT IS UNFORTUNATE...BUT I ACCEPT THAT AS REALITY. BUT, WE MUST PRESS ON.

I WOULD LIKE TO BRIEFLY REVIEW A FEW OF THE ISSUES THAT NEED REINFORCEMENT AND TO CLEAR-UP MISCONCEPTIONS.

1. MANY TRUSTEES I HAVE SPOKEN WITH LIKE THE NEW, REQUIRED TRAINING. MANY PRESIDENTS I HAVE SPOKEN WITH LIKE THE IDEA OF SHORTER TERMS AS IT IS DIFFICULT TO RECRUIT PEOPLE FOR A NINE YEAR TERM.
2. THERE ARE NO TOPICS THAT CANNOT BE DISCUSSED ON CAMPUS OR IN THE CLASSROOM IN PARTICULAR. OPPONENTS HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT THE 'CHILLING EFFECT' ON FREE SPEECH. THE FIRST AMENDMENT IS ALIVE AND WELL AND REINFORCED IN THIS BILL. ALL WE ASK IS FOR BALANCE AND NO INDOCTRINATION.
3. OUR WORDS ON DIVERSITY OF THOUGHT AND OPINION ARE RIGHT OUT OF THE CHICAGO PRINCIPLES WHICH MANY OF OUR UNIVERSITIES SUBSCRIBE TO BUT DON'T QUITE FOLLOW. HOW COULD OPPONENTS BE AGAINST DIVERSITY?
4. DIVERSITY TRAINING IS NOT OUTLAWED IN THIS BILL. PERIOD. IT IS OPTIONAL UNLIKE SOME OTHER STATES.
5. THIS BILL DOES NOT SHOW ANIMOUS TOWARD THE CHINESE PEOPLE AND THEIR STUDENTS. WHAT IT DOES DO IS PROTECT OUR COUNTRY FROM THINGS THAT WE KNOW ARE GOING ON THAT ARE NOT IN THE BEST INTEREST OF OUR COUNTRY, OUR STATE AND OUR UNIVERSITIES.
6. IT IS NOT TRUE THAT 50% OF FACULTY EVALUATIONS WILL BE COMPRISED OF STUDENT EVALUATIONS. IN THE BILL, PAGE 38, IT NOTES CLEARLY THAT EVALUATIONS WILL BE CONDUCTED CONCERNING THE FOLLOWING AREAS: TEACHING, RESEARCH, SERVICE, CLINICAL CARE, ADMINISTRATION AND OTHER CATEGORIES AS DETERMINED BY THE INSTIRUTION. OF THE TEACHING SECTION COMPONENT, ONLY 50% OF THAT COMPONENT WILL BE COMPRISED OF STUDENT EVALUATIONS. FACULTY MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN COMPLAINING ARE EITHER MISINFORMED OR PURPOSEFULLY MISLEADING THE STUDENTS THEY HAVE ASKED TO PROTEST.
7. ASK YOURSELVES: WHY SHOULDN'T FACULTY BE EVALUATED? AS LONG AS THEIR RIGHTS ARE NOT VIOLATED AND THEY HAVE DUE PROCESS WHEN THERE ARE DISAGREEMENTS...WHAT ARE THEY AFRAID OF?

8. REGARDING LITMUS TESTS IN HIRING...I WAS DELIGHTED LAST WEEK TO HEAR OF A CHANGE IN SEVERAL POLICIES FROM OHIO STATE THAT REFLECT CONCERNS DEALT WITH IN THIS BILL. NO ONE SHOULD BE FORCED TO EXPRESS THEIR PERSONAL VIEWS ON ISSUES, ESPECIALLY CONTROVERTIAL SUBJECTS IN ORDER TO BE HIRED OR PROMOTED.
9. LASTLY, MR. CHAIRMAN, I WILL ADDRESS THE NO STRIKING PROVISION. I KNOW THIS IS CONTROVERTIAL. HOWEVER, IF WE THINK OF STUDENTS FIRST...WE WOULD HAVE TO CONCLUDE THAT SINCE STUDENTS PAY FOR THEIR TUITION AND FEES UP FRONT...NOTHING SHOULD INTERFERE WITH THE CONTRACT THEY HAVE ENTERED INTO WITH THE INSTITUTION AND THE STATE. NOTHING. WHY SHOULD STUDENTS BE USED AS PAWNS IN NEGOTIATIONS? IT HAS BEEN SAID IN THE MEDIA THAT THIS CHANGE WOULD UPSET THE BALANCE OF POWER IN NEGOTIATIONS. STRIKES AND THE THREATS OF STRIKES NEED TO END. SURELY THERE ARE OTHER MEANS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO NEGOTIATE BVETWEEN TWO PARTIES WITHOUT INTERRUPTING A VALID CONTRACT WHICH EXISTS.

CHAIR YOUNG AND COMMITTEE, I THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS YOU TODAY AND WOULD BE HAPPY TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS