

**Opponent Testimony for Senate Bill 83
House Committee on Higher Education
November 15, 2023**

**Maria Munir, CFO
Southwest Ohio Pain Institute**

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

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify today. My name is Maria Munir, and I am a mother of 3 college students. All of my children graduated from Walnuthills High School in Cincinnati. I am here today to express my concerns regarding Senate Bill 83 and its potential impact on our education system.

Let me share a personal story that highlights the potential consequences of this bill. As a mother, I have seen firsthand the transformative power of extracurricular activities in the lives of all my children. In particular my daughter, she struggled in public speaking and expressing her feelings but found solace and purpose in the school's newspaper program, the chatterbox. Through her involvement in Chatter box, she gained confidence, developed leadership skills, and discovered a passion for writing. She became the editor in chief of the school newspaper in her senior year and loved every minute of it! However, if Senate Bill 83 were to pass, it would significantly reduce funding for extracurricular activities, jeopardizing opportunities like newspaper for students like my daughter.

Beyond my personal experience, I am deeply concerned about the broader impact of this bill on our community. Extracurricular activities play a vital role in fostering a well-rounded education and providing students with opportunities for personal growth and development. By reducing funding for these activities, we risk depriving our students of the chance to explore their passions, develop important life skills, and build a sense of community within our schools.

Therefore, I urge you to consider the potential consequences of Senate Bill 83 and the detrimental impact it could have on our students and our education system. I ask that you vote against this bill or, at the very least, amend it to ensure that funding for extracurricular activities is preserved. Our students deserve the chance to thrive both inside and outside the classroom, and it is our responsibility to provide them with the resources they need to succeed.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Maria Munir
Chief Financial Officer
Southwest Ohio Pain Institute
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