

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 11/14/2023

Name: Carson Hartlage

Are you representing: Yourself Organization

Organization (If Applicable): _____

Position/Title: _____

Address: _____

City: Cincinnati State: OH Zip: 45220

Best Contact Telephone: 4193091878 Email: carson.hartlage@gmail.com

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes No

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): SB 83

Specific Issue: Ohio Higher Education Enhancement Act

Are you testifying as a: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes No

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? N/A

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

please see subsequent pages; written testimony only

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.

Date: 11/14/2023

State Representative Tom Young
Higher Education Committee Chair
77 South High Street
Floor 13
Columbus, OH 43215

Regarding Senate Bill 68:

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

My name is Carson Hartlage, and I am a second year medical student and lifelong Ohioan and am submitting this testimony as a private citizen **in opposition** to Senate Bill 83.

The Ohio Higher Education Enhancement Act will harm the medical students, the top-ranked medical schools, and the future physicians of Ohio. Medical students will not want to study in a state where the government encroaches on their ability to learn, and state medical schools are essential to retaining a skilled and talented physician workforce in Ohio.

Diversity, equity, and inclusion topics are essential to medical education and subsequent patient care. This is especially important to me as a queer and transgender patient and a future physician who will care for patients of all backgrounds. One third of transgender patients have had an adverse experience with a healthcare provider¹, and this is likely an underestimate. While transgender health is not an official part of the national standards for medical school curriculum, it is an essential topic that medical students should learn to be able to effectively care for trans patients. I feel lucky to attend a medical school where we are able to learn about this topic and others specific to other marginalized patient populations. Under SB83, this would be prohibited or severely restricted. The incredible faculty who advocate for the inclusion of these topics in our learning could face consequences and censorship. I do not want to learn medicine in a state where the government limits my knowledge and ability to care for marginalized patient populations.

Therefore, I call upon all members of the Committee to **oppose** Senate Bill 68. Do not allow this harmful bill to pass into law and hurt the economy and students of Ohio.

Thank you for your consideration,

Carson Hartlage

1. James, S. E., Herman, J. L., Rankin, S., Keisling, M., Mottet, L., & Anafi, M. (2016). *The Report of the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey*. Washington, DC: National Center for Transgender Equality.