

Linda Harvey Testimony on Senate Bill 83

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in favor of Senate Bill 83. I am president of Mission America and also serve on the board of Protect Ohio Children.

This bill has sadly become necessary and we are just recently seeing the evidence about why. College faculty and students have been trained to deny American constitutional rights and freedoms to others in the name of phony “diversity, equity and inclusion.”

Judge based on skin color? That’s a “yes” under DEI. How childish, shallow and unjust. Hate Jews, after hearing lie upon lie about Israel? Yes, totally permissible in the new “anti-racist” climate. Manipulate language, manipulate minds. And our universities are the generators of this primitive propaganda.

It’s a quick road to policies based on ignorance, pure and simple. And yet, very popular. [Ohio State University](#) doubled the number of “DEI” staff in the past five years, at a cost of over \$20 million.

The opponents of Senate Bill 83 claim to be deeply concerned about an alleged loss of free speech and freedom. This is dubious posturing and one can see it in their actions. What they're really worried about is loss of their monopoly on viewpoint discussions and their ability to viciously intimidate conservatives without accountability. That lack of accountability is the real “freedom” they covet.

Why worry about the end of mandatory student or faculty DEI indoctrination sessions? If these programs are worthwhile, surely they will be well- attended. What the opponents fear is that they will lose, not freedom, but the ability to force people to listen to nonsense, and then to be evaluated on their cooperation with such nonsense.

The opponents of this bill fear their tyranny will end. They fear that their manipulation of language and ideas will be discredited, which in most cases, they should be. They fear that the ability to officially label, with university approval, conservative views as “hate,” will end. And of course, if something is “hate,” you

feel justified in implementing vicious, even violent actions against that target. But no-- such actions used to be disgraceful, even if you disagreed with someone.

How refreshing if unjust actions by faculty, staff or students were punished appropriately. Such actions include using social media to endanger someone by "doxing," deliberately destroying reputations or damaging professional standing; conducting protests to shut down speakers using extreme intimidation bordering on or including violence; penalizing conservative opinions by withholding opportunity to share views in an equal forum; assigning lower grades; enacting job loss, demotion, or withholding tenure; and many other actions that deny intellectual freedom and mutual respect.

Progressives have become blind to their own recent dive into fascism, accusing all who want to hold them accountable as the problem. Don't believe it. I read the communications from the group "Honesty in Education" and wonder how these folks remain so clueless. It's hardly "honest" to restrict speech and religious freedom. They have shown an amazing fondness for deception, and are quite willing to use irresponsible hardball tactics to shut down other views.

I am not afraid of progressive views. I once held a liberal viewpoint and changed my mind when I evaluated more information, not less. Is that the fear? That with more information, more respectful inquiry and a change of heart, many young people in our colleges and universities will become unpersuaded about the value of the radical ideas they have been sold? That faculty members, suddenly able to speak their minds, will share conservative ideas with their students?

Many college students virtually never hear opposing views, and are being fed a poisonous stew of rage against what they have been told conservatism embodies. How else are we to explain the huge support for the massacres committed by Hamas? We have arrived in America at popular anti-Semitism, and the fault lies squarely with our colleges. How to explain justifying the deliberate, planned violence against women, children, babies, and families, committed gleefully by these terrorists?

There is apparently little knowledge of history and the totally legitimate right of the nation of Israel to exist and to defend itself. Our colleges are feeding their students something else, and that something is DEI.

There is no “apartheid” in Israel nor mistreatment by that nation of citizens of Gaza. It’s quite the opposite but the apparent ignorance among college age students is breathtaking. We are back to the primitive and the tribal, and that is not education. It’s barbarism and mob rule.

And it’s not just unfair to these students. This level of tyranny is a domestic threat to America. Peaceful coexistence with people trained in such ignorance, willing to bypass law and commit ready vandalism and violence, is impossible.

A change starts with our institutions of education. Let’s vote for freedom and pass SB 83.