

Testimony of Astrid N. Sambolín Morales, Ph.D.
Before the House Higher Education Committee
Rep. Tom Young, Chair
November 13, 2023

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

My name is Astrid N. Sambolín Morales, and I am a Cultural Foundations of Education professor at Kent State University. I **do not** represent Kent State University but am submitting testimony as a private citizen **in opposition** to Substitute Senate Bill 83.

Senate bill 83, even after its revisions, would rob faculty unions of the right to collectively bargain for terms that will affect our employment and would infringe on faculty's privacy by making their syllabi publicly accessible. The bill seems to amplify or create problems in higher education rather than solve them, and it does not reflect the desires of your constituency.

SB 83 is threatening the collective bargaining rights of faculty, removing the ability to effectively negotiate the terms of employment on essential issues like annual reviews, which are incredibly important in the tenure and promotion process. However, the most egregious component of this bill would force faculty to upload syllabi that professors create to share information with enrolled students. This step would force faculty to share their class, including assignments, reading lists, grading policies, and class expectations, with random strangers who might not even be affiliated with the university. Syllabi also represents faculty expertise, and having strangers and laypeople "evaluate" the syllabi seems counterintuitive and harmful. Moreover, sharing syllabi allows anyone to retaliate against and potentially harass faculty members despite not taking the class.

I have yet to meet one faculty member or administrator with anything favorable to find in this bill. Again, based on the overwhelming testimony in opposition to the bill, it's clear that many of those who will be directly affected by it do not find it helpful or desirable. Anecdotal evidence about student complaints is insufficient to pass a bill infringing on faculty's rights. Such drastic measures will only drive away talented faculty and make students second guess whether they want to attend an Ohio higher education institution.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,

Astrid N. Sambolín Morales