

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: October 6, 2023

Name: Jaladah Aslam

Are you representing: Yourself Organization

Organization (If Applicable): Youngstown Warren Black Caucus

Position/Title: President

Address: 3895 Cannon Road

City: Youngstown State: OH Zip: 44515

Best Contact Telephone: 330-727-5758 Email: Jaladah3895@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: _____

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? written testimony only

Please provide a brief statement on your position: I have attached a letter with this form explaining why our organization is opposed to the language in the proposed bill. SB 83 is a direct attack on diversity in schools and the public workplace as well as collective bargaining rights of the staff of those institutions.

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.



Youngstown Warren Black Caucus

P.O. Box 51 • Youngstown, Ohio 44501 — 330.727.5758 • 330.881.4162

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October 6, 2023

Representative Tom Young, Chair
House Higher Education Committee
77 S. High Street; Floor 11
Columbus, OH 43215

Chairman Young,

In April of this year, the members of the Youngstown Warren Black Caucus sent written testimony to the Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee opposing SB 83. Our voices, like thousands of other Ohioans, were ignored by that committee and the Senate when they passed the bill and sent it to the House on May 17, 2023. We are still adamantly opposed to the legislation.

It is particularly offensive and hurtful that the majority party in the Ohio legislature continues to go out of its way to stop, ban, discourage, and now penalize institutions and educators that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion. As we previously stated, **a ban on diversity is a direct promotion of exclusion**. It is sad that many politicians feel that all American cultures and ethnicities should not be embraced and included in Ohio's halls of learning. The message you're sending to anyone considered a minority in this state is that our living experiences and history are not welcome or relevant.

We continue to disagree with the provisions of the bill that ban the right to strike, mediate, or arbitrate contract negotiations. This language is nothing short of gutting rights of the thousands of staff at public colleges and universities in our state. It is another attack on collective bargaining like SB 5 which was overwhelmingly defeated in 2011. It is a clear union-busting tactic that we abhor.

We urge your committee to reject this entire bill.

Sincerely,

Jaladah Aslam, President



Youngstown Warren Black Caucus

P.O. Box 51 • Youngstown, Ohio 44501 — 330.727.5758 • 330.881.4162

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Jaladah Aslam

April 18, 2023

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The Honorable Jerry Cirino

Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee

Ohio Senate Building

1 Capitol Square; Ground Floor 034

Columbus, OH 43215

Chairman Cirino,

The Youngstown Warren Black Caucus strongly opposes the language in SB 83. We do not want the bill not advanced and want this entered as written testimony.

We especially take offense at your ban of teaching and hiring diversity and inclusion professionals at any school, but especially at the college and university level. It does not make sense that elected officials who claim to love this nation that is often referred to as a “great melting pot” of people and cultures, yet aggressively attempt to demonize educating young adults on the rich and beautiful aspects of those many cultures that comprise our diverse communities. By banning diversity, equity, and inclusion at any level, you are directly promoting **exclusion** of all cultures, races, and ethnic groups that you don’t personally belong to. There is nothing American about that.

Lastly, we do not support taking away any collective bargaining rights from college staff. Prohibiting them from being able to strike, is a backdoor attempt at union busting. Ohio voters rejected these kinds of measures in 2011 with the defeat of then Senate Bill 5. We stand with organized labor against this attack on worker rights. No supporter of working families would ever support this bill.

Jaladah Aslam, President

CC: Sen. Michael Rulli, 33rd District

Sen. Catherine Ingram, 9th District