

Opposition Testimony on SB 83
Before the Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee
Senator Jerry Cirino, Chair
November 27, 2023

Chair Cirino, Vice-Chair Rulli, Ranking Member Ingram, and Members of the Workforce and Higher Education Committee, thank you for considering this testimony in opposition to SB 83. I am an Ohio resident and a faculty member at one of the state's and this country's preeminent institutions of higher education (OSU). As a parent of a college-age student, I cannot fathom the depth of the attack that SB83 intends to perpetrate on the promise and the values of higher education. As a faculty member and a researcher who works tirelessly to attract the best students to state-of-the-art programs that took so much collective sacrifice to build over the years, I cannot accept and condone with the unprecedented political interference (typical of a dictatorial regime, not of a healthy democracy) that these bills would impose on our state's system of higher education, and as a resident of the state of Ohio I cannot understand how the priority of the majority in our state's legislature is to inflict self-sabotage in its attempt to blindly adopt an extremist agenda designed in hyper-conservative think tanks rather than to expand access to the one public good that we know can lift the state's overall welfare in the long term. Ohioans will not forget who fights for them and who chooses instead to compromise their well-being in the name of ideological extremism. I urge you to scrap this nefarious bill and, if indeed you are concerned for the state of higher education in the state, I invite you to work closely with those who know the industry from within. Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.