

Testimony of Carmen Winant, MFA, MA
Before the Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee

November 27, 2023

To the Members of the Workforce and Higher Education Committee:

My name is Carmen Winant, and I am an Associate professor of Art at The Ohio State University, where I have taught for five years. I do not represent OSU, but rather am submitting testimony as a private citizen in **opposition to Senate Bill 83**.

There is so much that I find deeply trouble about this bill. The three most disturbing components of the bill (however cloaked in euphemistic language) are the way it:

1. Weakens campus worker rights to advocate for fair and decent work conditions;
2. Sabotages programs to increase diversity and inclusion by limiting the affirmative action policies to increase diversity and inclusion by limiting the affirmative action policies that are so desperately needed to level the playing field and bring varied, valuable voices to the classroom;
3. Uses the cover of "intellectual diversity" to whitewash the most challenging parts of our history. My number one job as a teacher is to develop creative and critical thinking skills; I cannot do this, under any circumstances, if the government undermines me in the classroom by micromanaging higher education and censors me as I speak to systems of embedded power and injustice;

This bill would be *incredibly*, indubitably harmful. I cannot stress that enough. My colleagues and students and I are watching closely; we remain committed to using our classrooms as spaces of open exchange, growth, and intellectual and creative challenge. I urge you not to move forward with it. Please take it from us, the educators who work firsthand with students every day in the classrooms.

Sincerely,



Carmen Winant

Associate Professor
Roy Lichtenstein Chair of Studio Art
The Ohio State University