

Testimony of Danielle Fosler-Lussier
Before the Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee
Senator Jerry Cirino, Chair
submitted by email November 27, 2023 for the hearing scheduled for November 29, 2023

Dear Chair Cirino, Vice Chair Rulli, Ranking Member Ingram, and Members of the Workforce and Higher Education Committee:

My name is Danielle Fosler-Lussier, and I am a professor of Music at The Ohio State University where I have taught for more than 20 years. I do not represent The Ohio State University, but rather am submitting testimony as a private citizen **in opposition to Senate Bill 83**.

Free, open, and rigorous intellectual inquiry already exists throughout our university. We already have a free speech policy. Students are already being equipped to reach their own informed conclusions, including in our newly redesigned General Education curriculum. This bill, like others introduced recently, seeks to “solve” a problem that does not exist.

Faculty are already evaluated as a regular part of their employment, including annual and post-tenure reviews. The addition of new requirements only increases administrative costs, without changing anything about the quality of instruction.

Stifling the study of China is bad for Ohio. We need more understanding of nations that pose security threats, not less. And more international exchange has been proven to soften relations and make other peoples more sympathetic to US people and causes.

The stipulations against the study of racial divisions are a violation of academic freedom. We need to be able to teach history, sociology, and all other topics honestly, by telling true stories and showing students verified primary sources.

The requirement to post syllabi and credentials is unnecessary and intrusive. Citizens already have access to course numbers and descriptions. Faculty have intellectual property rights over their materials, and this requirement also opens faculty to doxxing.

The requirement of specific American history content and emphasis on founding documents (Sec.3345.382) is a **violation of the faculty’s right** to determine what content is appropriate. The faculty have expertise in the subject matter they teach.

I ask that you oppose Senate Bill 83.

Sincerely yours,

Danielle Fosler-Lussier