

Testimony of Suzanne Silver

Before the Higher Education Committee

Representative Tom Young, Chair

November 27, 2023

Chair Tom Young, Vice Chair Gayle Manning, and Members of the Workforce and Higher Education Committee:

My name is Suzanne Silver, and I am a professor of Art at The Ohio State University, where I have taught for over 17 years. I do not represent The Ohio State University, but rather am submitting written testimony (only) as a private citizen in opposition to Senate Bill 83.

It was evident the last time that an overwhelming majority opposes this bill. The voice of opposition was clear, and the revised bill still severely erodes our educational system.

SB 83 attacks academic freedom, tenure, and students' freedom to learn. Honest inclusive education and critical thinking are essential to education as are lived experiences. This bill would destroy any progress made on racial equality and cultural diversity and culture and would leave students woefully unprepared for the complexities of the world they live in. It also attacks workers' rights which would lead to unsafe working conditions.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this dangerous bill. It will hurt Ohio's ability to attract excellent students and faculty. This will hurt Ohio's economy. SB 83 is bad for students, bad for higher education, and bad for Ohio!

Sincerely,  
*Suzanne Silver*  
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