

Testimony of Julie Rose Alexander, Ph.D.
Before the House Higher Education Committee
Rep. Tom Young, Chair
November 29, 2023

Chair Young, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Miller, and Members of the Higher Education Committee:

My name is Dr. Julie Alexander. I am an Assistant Teaching Professor at Miami University's Farmer School of Business, where I have taught for seven years. I received my MA and MFA degrees at Ohio University and Bowling Green State Universities, respectively. I do not represent Miami University, but rather am submitting testimony as a private citizen in opposition to Substitute Senate Bill 83.

One of my primary concerns with this bill is its origin. It was not crafted by Ohioans who possess a deep understanding of our state's higher education system. Nor was any part of this bill researched, debated, written, or rewritten by Ohio university faculty, librarians, learning support specialists, or students.

Instead, this bill is composed largely of boilerplate language developed by the Goldwater & Manhattan Institutes. These are two libertarian think tanks located in Arizona and New York, respectively. They seek to exert their influence--the influence of a few very wealthy, very privileged, very elite individuals--on higher education across America, in states thousands of miles away from these institutions. They seek to exert their influence in states like Ohio.

Entrusting the future of Ohio's higher education to an outside organization undermines our ability to shape policies that address the unique needs of our state. It puts the working lives of university faculty, librarians, and staff in the hands of indifferent elites who have no concern for their unique and localized needs. It puts the education of Ohio's students in the hands of those who see those students not as individuals with goals and dreams, but as political pawns in a game played by those who will never know these students.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this harmful bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.