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Chair Young, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Miller, and members of the Ohio House Higher Education Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today in opposition to Substitute Senate Bill 83. My name is Jeff Dieringer and I'm with SEIU District 1199 WV/KY/OH. We represent over 1,000 workers in multiple public higher learning institutions in Ohio and we also represent over 7,000 total public sector workers in Ohio.

SEIU District 1199 has been opposed to this bill since its' introduction. It was an anti-union bill then and it is still an anti-union bill now that is an unnecessary attack on labor rights and is an attack on all unions in Ohio. SB 83 still infringes upon collective bargaining rights for union members by limiting certain subjects that faculty can bargain over. For those who don't know, Ohio's right to public sector collective bargaining celebrated its 40th anniversary this year. ORC Section 4117 is the lifeblood for public sector union rights and SB 83 is a direct attack on those rights. ORC Section 4117.08 clearly spells out that all matters pertaining to terms and conditions of employment are matters subject to collective bargaining.

The labor-related provisions of SB 83 are an attempt to circumventing legally protected union rights by chipping away at what subjects are appropriate for collective bargaining. By limiting these subjects, SB 83 is weakening one of the fundamental rights of unions: the right to collectively bargain the terms and conditions of employment. These provisions echo calls to Senate Bill 5 in 2011 when the State tried to expand the list of subjects deemed inappropriate for collective bargaining. Instead of doing it all in one bill, the legislature is going to strip union rights piece by piece through exemptions such as the ones created in SB 83.

Labor unions in Ohio see the dangerous precedent SB 83 sets for collective bargaining rights, and we will not stand for the attempt to steal union rights. SB 83 is bad for workers, bad for students, and bad for Ohio. I will now be happy to take any questions from the committee.