

Testimony of Naomi Brenner Ph.D.; J. Albert Harrill, Ph.D.; Robin Judd, Ph.D.;
Hannah Kosstrin, Ph.D.; Gabriella Modan, Ph.D.; Suzanne Silver, Ph.D.;
Michael Swartz, Ph.D.; Isaac Weiner, 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:

Our names are Naomi Brenner, a professor of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures; J. Albert Harrill, a professor of History; Robin Judd, a professor of History; Hannah Kosstrin, a professor of Dance; Gabriella Modan, a professor of English; Suzanne Silver, a professor of Art; Michael Swartz, a professor of Hebrew and Religious Studies; and Isaac Weiner, a professor of Comparative Studies at The Ohio State University. We do not represent OSU, but rather we are submitting testimony as private citizens in opposition to Substitute Senate Bill 83.

As faculty members who research and teach Jewish Studies, we are deeply concerned about the rise of antisemitism on the campuses of The Ohio State University and other institutions of higher education in the state of Ohio. Despite our worry about the increase in antisemitism, we oppose Substitute Senate Bill 83 and we do not believe that it offers appropriate or effective means of curbing antisemitic ideas and actions. We are educators who teach controversial issues in our classrooms and we are committed to equipping our students with the knowledge and skills for rigorous intellectual inquiry, efforts that will become more difficult if this bill is passed. Moreover, as scholars who think deeply about antisemitism inside and outside of the classroom, we condemn the use of antisemitism or Holocaust imagery as a rationalization for political actions.

Thank you for your time and for the opportunity to testify.