

Hannah Kemp-Severence
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Chair Young, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Miller, and Members of the Higher Education Committee,

Thank you for accepting this written testimony today. My name is Hannah Kemp-Severence. I am a graduate student at the University of Akron in the field of Applied History, having been a political science major during my undergraduate career. I also have spent approximately 16 years working in the archival field assisting students, faculty members, and the general public with historical research projects. I write today in opposition of SB 83 because of how it will stifle research both in and out of the classroom and promote the continuation of a dominant view of history already so pervasive in many archival collections.

Not only would archival research be affected, but the genuine exchange of ideas and process of an open learning environment that I experience now in my current courses would also be adversely affected with the passage of SB 83. We as citizens, students, adults, and children, must learn, understand, and accept that our history is full of complicated stories and themes. We must be willing to hear and value these complicated stories, which would essentially be shut out with SB 83. I have had valuable micro-aggression and implicit bias training that would likely be lost under the requirements of this bill.

In conclusion, I reiterate my opposition to SB 83. As a graduate student, parent, and someone who values history education and research, this legislation would invalidate the progress currently happening in these areas and create again a dominant, one-sided world view against the best interests of higher education and the general welfare of all citizens. Please reject this legislation.

Thank you,

Hannah Kemp-Severence