

Testimony of Sophie Kwiatkowski
Before the Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee
Senator Jerry Cirino, Chair
April 11, 2023

Chair Cirino, Vice Chair Rulli, Ranking Member Ingram, and Members of the Workforce and Higher Education Committee:

My name is Sophie Kwiatkowski, and I am a student studying English Literature, Sustainability, and Marketing at Miami University of Oxford, OH, where I have been studying for close to two years now. I do not represent Miami University, but rather am submitting testimony as a private citizen in opposition to Senate Bill 83.

I am beyond horrified at the implications of this bill as it would limit the scope of my education, especially regarding consuming literature from authors with diverse backgrounds. Additionally, I plan on going to law school after my undergraduate degree in the hopes of becoming an environmental-focused lawyer. Studying sustainability requires discussion and readings encapsulating topics like climate change and inequities in America and worldwide. This bill would wholly limit the extent of my studies and would bar me from extending my knowledge base in a worldly and fully informed manner.

I thought America was the “land of the free” but this bill completely juxtaposes and rejects this notion. Beyond just barring certain “controversial” topics, prohibiting workers/faculty from unionizing is absolutely terrifying and again, rejects that where we reside resembles any trace of freedom.

I hope my words speak to you as not only a full-time student but a part-time worker at the university I attend, speaking as a private citizen on the matters of this bill.