

**Testimony of Mark G. Ryland, Au.D., R.E.P.T., RPSGT, RNCST, CNCT FASET
Before the Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee
Senator Jerry Cirino, Chair
April 16, 2023**

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

My name is Dr. Mark G. Ryland, and I am an Associate Professor of Neurodiagnostics and Ploysomnography at Cuyahoga Community College, where I have taught for about 20 years. Prior to teaching at the College, I was an Allied Health Career Professional for 15 years. I do not represent Cuyahoga Community College but rather am submitting testimony as a private citizen in opposition to Senate Bill 83.

I feel that this is a very mis-guided and confusing bill that serves only to silence viable opinions and open-mindedness in students and faculty. As a Faculty member, and a Health Career Professional, equity and inclusion related to aspects of race, sex, sexuality, gender identity, and even faith issues are at the core of what we do. As we educate and train our students to work with patients and their families they need to be knowledgeable of issues of equity and inclusion. They also need to be aware of controversial topics related to health and health care. These are not overly liberal views, these are issues that deal with humanity; issues some of our politicians appear to be missing.

We are not producing trained robots. Our students need to learn empathy, sympathy, and understand that differences exist; and none of those differences should ever form a negative opinion of our patients (and families) and how we treat them.

In my opinion, this bill limits and diminishes basic tenants of Health Care Professionals, both directly and indirectly. It limits open-minded thought, and will have a negative impact on our Health Career graduates.

I therefore reiterate my strong opposition to Senate Bill 83.

Regards,

Dr. Mark G. Ryland, Associate Professor and Veteran.

Written testimony is a public record and may be posted on the Ohio Senate's website