

Chairman Cirino, Vice Chair Rulli, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Sarah Price. I am a senior interior design student at Kent State University. I am strongly opposed to Senate Bill 83 and its companion bill in the Ohio House.

The opportunities to learn about gender, race, and sexuality have helped me in my education. When designing for other people it is crucial to understand the differences between each other and the struggles people who look different than ourselves experience. This would not be possible with the proposed bill, gutting an important part of our curriculum. This infringement of teachers and students freedom of speech not only compromises our ability to learn, it threatens our schools accreditations.

The banning of groups, clubs, and organizations based on race, sex, sexuality, and gender is dangerous to marginalized students, depriving them of safe spaces on campus. For many students including myself, these groups provide community for people who are cast aside and hated for things we cannot control. Without these groups people will be stripped of their community and access to resources.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this dangerous bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.