



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

The Board of Public Education Partners is very much opposed to Senate Bill 83 and its companion bill in the Ohio House. Public education advocates have seen more than their share of egregious legislation targeting the public-school districts that serve most of Ohio's children and families, but now it appears that legislators have turned their sights on higher education as well.

Some of those same legislators promote extreme K-12 education policies with the claim that Ohio must strengthen its "workforce," yet many college students have vowed to leave Ohio upon graduation because of the current policy initiatives of the legislative majority. The best way to make sure we have enough young people to fill Ohio jobs is to put a stop to this extremism.

For those who have not really thought about Senate Bill 83, here are some of its over-reaching highlights to consider:

- Banning diversity, equity, and inclusion training for all faculty, staff, and students
- Eliminating the fundamental right of higher education faculty and staff to strike
- Requiring a set of standard questions to be used in student evaluation of faculty and mandating an annual review process with student evaluations that account for at least 50% of the teaching evaluation component
- Creating vague parameters around addressing "controversial matters" and "specified concepts" to promote what is referred to as "intellectual diversity"

Banning DEI? Eliminating fundamental faculty rights? Attacking tenure? Controlling education faculty, staff, and students with polarizing social regulations? How troublesome!

Senate Bill 83 is a shameful attempt to micromanage Ohio colleges, universities, and higher education faculty and staff on ideology that is rooted in the politically motivated culture wars.

Most Ohioans would agree that there should be much higher priorities for our elected leaders than culture war issues, which are a distraction from what is really happening and what really needs to be done at the Ohio Statehouse to support both K-12 and higher education in the Buckeye State.

Please vote NO on Senate Bill 83, a harmful bill that is the epitome of government overreach.

Thank you for your service!

Jeanne Melvin and the Board of
Public Education Partners