

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 Julian Robbins. I am a graduate student and instructor in the art department at the Ohio State University. I am strongly opposed to Senate Bill 83 and its companion bill in the Ohio House.

I was born and raised in Knoxville, TN, but I was able to attend Ohio State because of diversity and inclusion programs. As an undergraduate, I was a recipient of the Morrill Scholarship, a diversity and inclusion scholarship, which was my original draw to Ohio state. I was chosen for this scholarship because of my high academic performance and because of my efforts as a high school student to make my school an accepting environment for LGBT students.

Because of diversity and inclusion programs, not only was I able to become a member of the Ohio State community, but the Columbus community as well, as my fiancée and I purchased a house and put down roots here in 2021. I was also able to graduate with my bachelor of arts completely debt free.

Programs like the Morrill Scholarship Program promote intellectual diversity- the very thing this bill is purporting to protect. By recruiting marginalized students, who would otherwise go to low cost community colleges, and drawing in out of state students like myself, the campus community is enriched with more diversity of ideas, experiences, and perspectives.

Because the Morrill Scholarship Program recruits students who attest that they are committed to allyship, diversity, social justice, equity, and inclusion- all "specified concepts" under SB 83, this program, and other recruiting programs that promote intellectual diversity in the campus community would be absurdly marked as discriminatory and anti-intellectual diversity. Additionally, diversity and inclusion trainings which are also targeted by this bill make the campus community more accepting and less hostile to minority students, which improves minority student performance and retention rates.

Intellectual diversity is achieved through diversity of voices on campus, which is exactly what diversity and inclusion programs that are targeted by this bill promote. The premise of this bill is directly opposed to the policies that it actually contains with regard to intellectual diversity as well as freedom of expression for students and instructors, of which I am both.

If I had been a high school junior or senior when a bill like SB 83 passed, not only would I have not received the scholarship that brought me here, I would have dropped *all* institutions in Ohio from my common app. Such a law would mark a state as intellectually backwards and hostile to minority and marginalized voices. It is my firm belief that if SB 83 passes, not only will schools like Ohio State have a significant drop in talented out-of-State applicants, Ohio as a whole will experience significant brain drain as students choose to attend university elsewhere, and established faculty and staff depart for institutions in states where they will not be subjected to these backwards policies.

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