

Testimony of Esther Nzomo, Undergraduate Criminology Student at Kent State University

Before the Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee

Senator Jerry Cirino, Chair

April 17, 2023

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

My name is Esther Nzomo, and I am a student at Kent State University, where I have attended for three years. I do not represent Kent State University, but rather am submitting testimony as a private citizen in opposition to Senate Bill 83. I have been able to learn so much during my years at Kent State and if this bill had been in place when I had started, I wouldn't have been able to learn the information that I found so uplifting and vitally important. As a government body, enforcing your agenda on the educational material that these Universities carry out is an incredible overreach. This bill would unfairly affect Chinese faculty and students for the crime of being Chinese. There are no other words for what this is other than xenophobic. I find it incredibly ironic that with this bill you would enforce censorship onto universities, something that you turn around and shame China for.

As representatives of the people, you should care to hear what the people think about this. Know that this is not something that the overwhelming majority of Ohio university students and faculty want. In doing this, you would be directly opposing what is best for education and what is best for the thousands of students and faculty in your state. You are doing us a disservice by even introducing a bill like this and forcing us to state the obvious. I am against xenophobia. I am against censorship. Protesting and unionizing should not be banned. This bill should not be passed.