

Testimony of Kit Gladieux  
Before the Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee  
Senator Jerry Cirino, Chair  
April 17th, 2023

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

My name is Kit Gladieux, and I am a senior undergraduate student at Miami University, and plan on attending the University of Cincinnati for my Master's in Arts Administration. I do not represent either of these institutions, but rather am submitting testimony as a private citizen in opposition to Senate Bill 83.

I oppose Senate Bill 83 as a student, as a citizen of Ohio, and as an American. My major at Miami University, Individualized Studies, is a major hand-built by myself, of which I have taken numerous Social Justice and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies courses. I have attended lectures on Critical Race Studies, anti-racism efforts, and LGBTQ+ rights and activism. My major is built on interdisciplinary studies, which this bill seeks to erase.

Students at higher education institutions are adults. We are independent human beings, capable of producing 'diversity of thought' without government interference. We choose the courses that we take. Higher education is made to prepare us for the 'real world', and the real world is one full of people of different identities, backgrounds, and walks of life. Controlling our curriculum, our academic freedoms, and our right to gather in affinity group spaces to further your own agenda is not only a gross misuse of the legislative system, but is simply unconstitutional.

If Senate Bill 83 is to continue and pass, I cannot guarantee the continuation of my pursuit toward higher education in the state of Ohio, and I can certainly guarantee my departure from the state post-graduation. I will not live in, provide for, or support a state that supports a bill such as SB 83 that attacks worker's rights, denies scientific fact, attacks academic freedoms, dismisses the diversity that makes our state and country great, and sees me, my identities, and my communities as 'controversial'.

I oppose Senate Bill 83. I oppose this violation of my academic and personal freedoms. For the sake of my own education, for the education of my future children, and for the education of every child, teenager, and adult in Ohio, I oppose Senate Bill 83. I support true intellectual diversity; diversity of thought, open conversation, and open minds. I support the embracing of the melting pot of this state, this country, and the world at large. I support inclusion, diversity, equity, liberty, and justice for all, which is why I oppose Senate Bill 83.