

Testimony of Dr. Pepper Stetler
Before the Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee
Senator Jerry Cirino, Chair,

12 April 2023

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

My name is Pepper Stetler and I am a professor at Miami University and a citizen of Oxford, Ohio in Butler County. I do not represent Miami University, but rather am submitting testimony as a private citizen in opposition to Senate Bill 83.

I am shocked by the incredible overreach of the bill. The changes proposed would force Ohio's higher education system to come to a screeching halt, making it nearly impossible to prepare students for a twenty-first century world. The amount of time required to spend on fulfilling these ridiculous processes of evaluation and oversight would only take away time from our teaching our students.

In addition to the damage that the bill would cause to the higher education system in Ohio, it would also destroy the communities surrounding Ohio's once proud universities. Our finest teachers would simply move away and find teaching positions in states that trust the experts to do their jobs. Once vibrant communities full of diverse ideas and opportunities would be destroyed. Oxford is one such community under threat. HB151 would destroy the values and principles of higher education at Miami and its impact would go far beyond the university itself. Most importantly, this bill is the opposite of the economic growth that you claim to stand for.

I used to expect the Republican party to trust its citizens and advocate for small government. Those days are, unfortunately, long gone. Instead, the Ohio legislature is intent on gutting education, all for the sake of imposing their own values on everyone else. It is deeply disappointing. The Republican party is destroying this country and I sincerely hope that everyone in Ohio will notice before 2024. If you care at all about the education of Ohio citizens, I strongly urge you to reject HB83.

Sincerely,

Pepper Stetler

Oxford, Ohio