

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 LOCHLAN LEMKE AND I'M A SENIOR JOURNALISM STUDENT AT KENT STATE UNIVERSITY MINORING IN MEDIA ADVOCACY. I AM A PROUD CHINESE-AMERICAN TRANSGENDER MAN. I AM STRONGLY OPPOSED TO SENATE BILL 83 AND ITS COMPANION BILL IN THE OHIO HOUSE.

AS A JOURNALISM STUDENT I SPEND A DECENT AMOUNT OF TIME WITH MY NOSE IN LEGISLATION AND SENATE BILL 83 SCARES THE CRAP OUT OF ME FOR A MULTITUDE OF REASONS

I CAN'T IMAGINE MY CAMPUS WITHOUT THE LGBTQ+ CENTER AND I'M SURE THIS IS FELT ACROSS THE 14 PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES IN OHIO. THIS BILL WOULD ERASE THIS SAFE SPACE AND ITS RESOURCES FOR THE STUDENTS WHO NEED IT. CAMPUS PRIDE HAS RECOGNIZED KENT STATE AS ONE OF THE TOP COLLEGES FOR LGBTQ+ STUDENTS TWO YEARS IN A ROW; THIS BILL WOULD TRY AND ERASE THAT LEGACY WE'VE WORKED SO HARD ON.

SENATE BILL 83 SCARES ME BECAUSE IT WILL PROHIBIT ALL RELATIONSHIPS WITH CHINESE INSTITUTIONS AND EFFECTIVELY DEMONIZE ALL ASIAN STUDENTS AND FACULTY ACROSS THE STATE AND YES THIS WILL AFFECT ALL ASIANS WORKING AND ATTENDING PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES NOT JUST THE CHINESE. THIS BILL VALIDATES THE DANGEROUS IDEA THAT WE AS CHINESE PEOPLE ARE DANGEROUS JUST BY BEING FROM CHINA, EVEN IF WE HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY. I FEAR THE RISE OF

XENOPHOBIA AND VIOLENCE AGAINST ASIANS THAT THIS BILL WOULD NO DOUBT CAUSE.

FINALLY, SENATE BILL 83 SCARES ME BECAUSE IT WILL LIMIT WHAT TOPICS WE ARE ALLOWED TO DISCUSS AND HOW WE DISCUSS THEM. I HADN'T HEARD THE NAMES EMMETT TILL OR CLAUDETTE COLVIN UNTIL I WAS IN COLLEGE; THIS BILL WOULD LIMIT DISCUSSIONS ON THESE IMPORTANT AMERICANS. I CAME TO COLLEGE TO LEARN ABOUT AS MANY CULTURES AND HISTORY AS I COULD AND THIS BILL WOULD TAKE THAT AWAY FROM ME. I KNOW SB 83 WILL ERADICATE GENDER STUDIES, PAN-AFRICAN STUDIES, AND MANY MORE IMPORTANT AREAS OF HIGH EDUCATION IN THE NAME OF "INTELLECTUAL DIVERSITY." THE MERE PRESENCE OF THESE COURSES MAKES MARGINALIZED STUDENTS FEEL SEEN AND VALIDATED, AND YOU WANT TO TAKE THAT AWAY. I ASK YOU TO CONSIDER MY TESTIMONY AND VOTE NO ON THIS DANGEROUS BILL. THANK YOU AGAIN FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY.