

Testimony of Julie S. Field, PhD
Before the Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee
Senator Jerry Cirino, Chair
April 18th, 2023

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

My name is Dr. Julie Field and I am an Associate Professor of Anthropology at Ohio State University, where I have taught for sixteen years. I do not represent Ohio State University, but rather am submitting testimony as a private citizen in opposition to Senate Bill 83.

The bill as written will violate my right to free speech, and also seek to censor, distort, and erase scientific and intellectual freedom at Ohio's leading research institute. As an archaeologist with decades of training in the study of ancient cultures and political systems, I am appalled by this bill, as it represents a move toward anti-intellectualism, and also the tyrannical control of university-level instruction by conservative extremists. It is a shameless and embarrassing expression of tyranny—akin to religious edicts of the 10th century that were designed to control thought, expression, and the access to education. I absolutely oppose every component of this bill; it will irrevocably harm education in Ohio's colleges and universities.