

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 in writing. My name is Rebecca Chamberlin. I am a manager in a large Insurance company in Columbus. I received my Master's degree from Ohio University and my daughter is currently a student at Ohio University. I am a lifetime resident of Ohio and love living in this state. I am strongly opposed to Senate Bill 83 and its companion bill in the Ohio House.

When I was a graduate student at Ohio University, I valued the professors and the courses. I loved being able to talk about many different topics and share our ideas with a diverse student body. I loved being able to share my perspective and hear the perspective of others. Now that my daughter is a student, she is having similar experiences. She wants to be a teacher and is currently learning about diversity in education. She is learning about the challenges of poor schools and is able to talk about her perspective of being taught in a rural school along with her classmates who come from urban and sub-urban schools. Besides the classroom experiences, she has had the opportunity to join affinity groups where she can feel welcome and yet also learn about others.

This kind of wonderful education is what makes us valuable employees and members of society. SB 83 may say it wants diversity, but is doing the opposite. By prohibiting affinity groups, by adding oversight over the details of what is taught in a class, and by prohibiting diversity training, SB 83 is putting unnecessary regulation over our higher education. This bill will lead to less diversity. It will lead to reduced enrollment in our state universities. Those who graduate from our state universities will be less well-rounded people who will not be strong candidates for employers. I do not worry about our education system indoctrinating our students. I worry about SB 83 indoctrinating them into only one way of thinking.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this harmful bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in writing.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Chamberlin