

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 Jacob Kopcienski. I am a resident of Franklin County and am Ph.D. Candidate at The Ohio State University. I vehemently oppose Senate Bill 83 and its companion bill in the Ohio House. I was a graduate teaching associate at the Ohio State University School of Music from 2020-2021. I also have ten years of teaching experience ranging from K-12 Music education in Ohio to university instruction in West Virginia. From this experience, I see the proposed bill creating severe barriers to students' intellectual freedom and labor rights.

I strive to respect and respond to diverse student interests and viewpoints in all my classrooms. In the Fall of 2020 at OSU, I had the privilege of teaching a "Protest in American Music" course at the School of Music. My open, curious, and intellectually diverse students explored powerful songs from US History produced through collective struggle. Amid social unrest and the pandemic, we all reached to music to make sense of what this bill calls "controversial subjects." My students shaped discussions and chose projects based on their musical interests (punk, trap, jazz, and freedom songs) through creative projects exploring queer community, feminism, climate change, immigration, and legacies of resisting racial and ethnic violence. Are you prepared to silence their music and creativity?

The bill also poses serious threats to labor rights. The requirement to post syllabi imperils students' freedoms. As K-12 teachers have argued across the country, the requirements to publish curricula publicly months (or years) in advance also places undue bureaucratic labor on instructors. In Universities, these regulations' most detrimental impacts will not fall on tenured faculty members. Instead, the proposed legislation will put additional labor on already overburdened contingent workers (graduate student instructors and adjunct lecturers) who teach most undergraduate students. Are you prepared to negatively impact student instruction in the name of oversight?

In addition to students' intellectual freedom and labor issues, the proposed legislation's myriad restrictions on University DEI initiatives, research, service, and community-engaged activity will have numerous negative consequences.

Please consider my testimony and vote NO on this harmful bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.