

Testimony of Alison Crocetta
Before the Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee
Senator Jerry Cirino, Chair
April 18, 2023

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

My name is Alison Crocetta, and I am a professor of Art at The Ohio State University, where I have taught for eighteen years. I do not represent The Ohio State University, but rather am submitting testimony as a private citizen in opposition to Senate Bill 83.

There is not space in this testimony to describe all the ways that I find this bill to be offensive to the values that I hold as a parent, educator, and member of this community. It is an extremely sad day when legislative bodies, such as yours, begin to infringe upon the practice of academic freedom and the right of students to engage with the very core problems that are impacting their lives.

I offer you this example in attempt to illustrate to you why I find Senate Bill 83 to be a great infringement to my own academic freedom and that of my students. In my *Art 2000: Encountering Contemporary Art* course at Ohio State, I introduce the concept and history of intersectionality through the work of Professor Kimberlé Crenshaw to begin to think critically about how we, as individuals, move through world while negotiating a range of socio-political factors. After students begin to understand the historic underpinnings of this concept, I ask them to consider how their own intersectionality may inform the way that they engage with contemporary art. This lens of intersectionality also allows us to approach figures in the history of art, and the practice of contemporary artists, with a deeper appreciation for the range of issues that may be impacting the form and content of their creative work in the world.

Senate Bill 83 will act to eclipse this kind of self-reflective and historically informed teaching and learning. Therefore, I implore you to reject SB 83 because as my colleagues at Honesty for Ohio Education so clearly state, "Senate Bill 83 is bad for students, bad for higher education, and bad for Ohio."