

Testimony of Andrea L. Meluch, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor, School of Communication

Before the Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee  
Senator Jerry Cirino, Chair

April 17, 2023

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

My name is Andrea Meluch and I am a professor of Business and Organizational Communication at The University of Akron where I have taught for three years. I do not represent The University of Akron, but rather am submitting testimony as a private citizen in opposition to Senate Bill 83.

After reading Senate Bill 83, I am very concerned about the impact that this legislation will have on the quality of higher education in the state of Ohio and, consequently, on the businesses and organizations that hire recent college graduates from Ohio universities and colleges.

By restricting the discussion of “controversial matters” in college classrooms this legislation will place students and graduates at a disadvantage when entering the modern workplace. Businesses and organizations throughout Ohio are eagerly seeking college graduates who are able to understand and appropriately communicate about potentially controversial topics, such as diversity. If students do not come into contact with these topics in the college classroom, they will not have the knowledge and experience that employers, especially employers in Ohio, are looking for when making hiring decisions. As such, this bill would be bad for Ohio’s economy and for young college graduates looking to build their careers in Ohio.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrea L. Meluch". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andrea L. Meluch, Ph.D.