

## **Dana Miller: Position Against Ohio SB83**

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

Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony. My name is Dana Miller. I do not represent any institution but rather am submitting testimony as a private citizen in opposition to Senate Bill 83.

I was born when The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was signed into law and since then the U.S. has attempted to develop a multi-racial democracy which is an idea, I believe, that SB83 would view as controversial.

I went to public schools and didn't feel as if I was indoctrinated into a particular way of thinking but what that kind of education did was expose me to new people and ideas that sparked interests which led to my own investigations and conclusions. When you are stretched and learn deeply you develop empathy.

It is naive and arrogant to believe that a higher education institution or a bill can really indoctrinate a young person. SB83 doesn't give young people any freedom or credit for taking learning into their own hands. Many young people in Ohio take a look around and vote with their feet by moving to areas of the country that allow more freedom of ideas, speech, and lifestyle.

SB83 is another in a long line of recent and unimaginative attempts to distill higher education into a grotesque caricature of U.S. history and culture that does not take into account the lived experiences of large swaths of our population.

What SB83 does do is reveal the undemocratic and fear-based motives of the out-of-state think tanks that generated SB83 for their legislative consumers.

My conclusion after an indoctrination-free public higher education is that there are 2 camps regarding the controversial attempt at a multi-racial U.S. democracy; unafraid and afraid. Those that are afraid...and they got really afraid in the summer of 2020...have created bills like SB83 which are nothing more than an inky black smokescreen squirted by a scared squid to create confusion, division, and administrative bloat. The sad thing about bills like SB83 is they enable those who are afraid to continue in a state of dis-ease rather than facing honestly a history that could, with effort, reveal a true humanity and a more productive way of life.

Education is empathy and I still believe the Kids Are Alright.

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

Sincerely,  
Dana Miller