

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 Jasper Waugh-Quasebarth. I am a university instructor with ten years of experience teaching higher education, social sciences, and humanities in public institutions. I am strongly opposed to Senate Bill 83 and its companion bill in the Ohio House.

Though this bill claims to support the freedom of expression, its proposals to increase the administrative burden of faculty and teaching staff will limit student speech.

In a 21st century college classroom, students need space to speak their minds and relate lessons and theory from classroom education to their life experiences. Advance approval of discussion topics will not allow instructors to respond to student expectations and experiences. Increased administrative and teaching loads as required by this bill will force instructors out of methods of teaching and assessment that encourage freedom of expression like presentations, essays, and curiosity-driven research projects and into silos of rote memorization on exams. Students will not focus on gaining skills useful to 21st century economies and communities but rather limit themselves to base sets of decontextualized facts.

The future of thriving communities and economies in Ohio will be based on having engaged, thoughtful, and responsive leaders that come from today's students. This bill is unfounded in the real, everyday experience of teaching 21st century students and enskilling them to better lives, livelihoods, and communities in Ohio.

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