

Ohio Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee
Opponent Testimony on SB 83
Ariel Miller
April 20, 2023

Chairman Cirino, Vice Chair Rulli, Ranking Member Ingram, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on SB 83. I am writing as a Christian voter and grandmother to ask you to exercise care for children who are growing up into a world imperiled by climate change. These impacts are already affecting Ohio's infrastructure, businesses, and farms through drought, heat, extraordinarily heavy rainfall and flooding. Our communities need to understand the causes of these events and what they can do to mitigate them and become more resilient.

Compelling our schools and universities to "present both sides" on the climate issue – as if the cases for and against recognizing a human role in global warming were equally valid – is a great disservice to our students. They cannot prepare to overcome risks they don't understand. I'm sure you want civil engineering students to understand how to build a safe, durable bridge or a road that won't buckle in the heat. Preparing Ohio students to work in insurance, energy, urban planning, and any number of other fields requires an accurate understanding of climate change and of how to inform themselves about the increasing risks and effective solutions.

In 2020, Rotary International adopted environmental sustainability as one of its seven humanitarian priorities. Climate change endangers all of Rotarians' other work including preventing disease, providing safe water and sanitation, and promoting community economic development. As editor of a global newsletter for the Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group, I am learning about an array of feasible and cost-effective climate actions which, if implemented now, will help mitigate the dangers we're all facing, including in Ohio. There are many win-win actions which will help protect our homes, farms, businesses, and infrastructure from catastrophic damage.

As an American Christian, I am very concerned the impact that our high carbon emissions are having on other people around the world. I believe all of them to be as beloved by God as we are. Climate change is endangering work and safety in many countries including our own - think of wildfires in California and Florida hurricanes. Please let our teachers and professors explain what's happening, and what we can do to slow the trends. By doing so, you will be making a significant contribution to preventing a tsunami of climate refugees. Aside from the moral imperative in stopping our actions that harm others, facing and acting on the causes of climate change will help ensure people can thrive in the countries where they were born.

For all these reasons, I beg you not to pass SB 83. Thank you for letting me reach out to you.

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