

Name:

Jenna Gilbreath

SB83 Testimony:

Chairman Cirino, Vice Chairman Rulli, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee; thank you for the opportunity to provide opposition testimony on Senate Bill 83. My name is Jenna Gilbreath. I am the outgoing student body president at Kent State University and looking to pursue a masters in Higher Education and Student Affairs. As the elected representative of the student body at Kent State, I am here to represent the thoughts of our student body. As students, who know our experiences because we live them every single day on our campus. As students we are strongly opposed to Senate Bill 83.

I was born and raised here in Columbus and I take incredible pride in living, learning, and working in the state of Ohio. When I was given the opportunity to attend college outside of Ohio, I chose to stay here because this is my home. I felt empowered by the opportunities this state had for me. These words are now all in past tense— felt and had.

The proposal of this bill has stripped my pride of this state. I fear for our future. Just earlier this year House Bill 554 was signed “specifically to bring professionals in various fields BACK to their previous [roles] as teachers” as there is a teacher shortage. As we are experiencing a historic decline in the supply of educators coupled with an increasingly competitive market of education, why are we harming the quality of education? If passed, this legislation will attack freedom of speech and strip the ability to discuss people’s own lived experience through programs surrounding diversity, equity, and inclusion. Like many college aged and high school aged students are trying to decide our education future, we are now having to decide if our education is free and affirming. Like many of my peers it is becoming more appealing to leave the state I once loved.

Ohio still has the opportunity to protect freedom of speech and the future of education. I ask that you consider my testimony and vote NO on this harmful bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Would you like to read this yourself, have someone else read it, or submit it written?:

I would like to read it

Jenna old paragraph:

The proposal of this bill has stripped my pride of this state. I fear for our future. Just earlier this year House Bill 545 was passed “specifically to bring professionals in various fields BACK to their previous profession as teachers” as there is a teacher shortage. When the demand for education is so high, why are we introducing legislation to harm it? If passed, this legislation will attack freedom of speech and strip the ability to discuss people’s own lived experience through programs surrounding diversity, equity, and inclusion. This will then make it more difficult to attract students and faculty to higher education institutions in Ohio. The very reasons I chose to stay in Ohio for my undergraduate education and now I question my future.

Jenna’s edits but don’t submit this one:

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Jenna Gilbreath. I am the outgoing student body president at Kent State University and looking to pursue a masters in Higher Education and Student Affairs. As the elected representative of the student body at Kent State, I am here to represent the thoughts of our student body. As students, who know our experiences because we live them every single day on our campus. We are strongly opposed to Senate Bill 83.

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