

Testimony of Kate Altany
Before the Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee
Senator Jerry Cirino, Chair
April 18, 2023

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

My name is Kate Altany, and I am a graduate student in Rhetoric and Composition at Miami University and a recent graduate of Ohio University's Honors Tutorial College. I do not represent either Miami University or Ohio University, but rather am submitting testimony as a private citizen in opposition to Senate Bill 83.

This bill will have significant negative impacts on my education. Had this bill been passed before receiving my undergraduate education, many of the courses responsible for developing my critical thinking skills through analyzing and discussing current debates and issues would have been far less effective. Refusal to address current issues by restricting faculty's ability to teach them would not have helped me become a more informed voter, citizen, or student. Furthermore, my graduate education would severely decline in quality and applicability. My field of study is grounded in holistic, informed analysis of how writing conveys meaning and the methods by which individuals wield that power. I need my professors and administrators to inform my learning through multiple perspectives, not just those supported by the state.

For these reasons, I am standing as an Ohio student against SB83. Should it pass, I anticipate many undergraduate students will be barred from developing the critical literacy and analytical skills I was taught, and my current experience as a graduate student will decline in quality and applicability. Please consider the major detrimental effects to enacting these policies, as restricting our professors' voices will only take away from the ability to use our own.