

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 Kayley DeLong, and I am a doctoral candidate and teaching associate at the Ohio State University. There, I teach classes for undergraduates enrolled at the university. I am strongly opposed to Senate Bill 83 and its companion bill in the Ohio House. I am writing on behalf of my own opinions and no one else.

This bill is a breach of rights on the most nefarious of levels. As someone who teaches in the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies department, I believe this legislation is precisely poised to attack freedom of expression, ethics, and pedagogical practice in the humanities. The insinuation that "liberal indoctrination" is a serious problem on college campuses is not only without robust merit, but deeply dangerous in its efforts to censor marginalized people in learning spaces.

In my time as a college-level instructor I have never not feared for my ability to teach openly, safely, and without retribution. If you work in my field for more than five minutes, you encounter the sensation: being perpetually baffled at how people interpret the university as a leftist brain-washing enterprise, all the while our landscape continues to be shaped by the interest of conservative, nationalist powers from the administration and Board of Trustees.

It is insulting on multiple levels to be faced with legislation which is based on the notion of a phantom threat conjured by bigots. These individuals are not freedom fighters nor valiant patriots. They are people who are scared of having to reckon with a changing society and changing world, operationalized by hardworking, compassionate, and sincere educators. They would see us return to where we have once been.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this dangerous, short-sided, and ethically bankrupt bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincere wishes,

Kayley DeLong

