

Dear, Chairman Cirino, Vice Chair Rulli, Ranking Member Ingram, and Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee members,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Alysha Stone. I am a senior at Kent State University studying Public Health and Political Science, as well as being an IGNITE fellow. I am strongly opposed to Senate Bill 83 and its companion bill in the Ohio House.

Senate Bill 83 will not only hinder the mission as a fellow to educate, empower and advocate but many others as well. Students will be scared to speak up for their rights and beliefs and this bill ultimately will lead to a lack of leaders who have the potential to endorse your endeavors as a state legislature. Senate Bill 83 will reflect poorly on the image of the state of Ohio, which in turn will reflect poorly on Ohio residents, stifling their chances of success. Senate Bill 83 will criminalize educators, board members, and other leading officials for the sheer act of educating, leading, and protecting the children of Ohio.

The only alternative to Senate Bill 83 is not passing this harmful bill and instead enact legislation that will protect our teachers and students from real harm such as gun violence, the school-to-prison pipeline, and suicide due to biased laws declining children the basic amenity of fair, equitable, and quality mental health care.

For all these reasons, we urge you to oppose Senate Bill 83 when it comes before your committee. If you or your staff have any questions regarding my opposing position, please contact me at [Alysha.ams@gmail.com](mailto:Alysha.ams@gmail.com). Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Alysha Stone

