

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 Tiffany Chin. I am an associate director for culture and belonging under the office of inclusive excellence at the University of Cincinnati at the College of Education, Criminal Justice, Human Services and Information Technology. I am also a licensed mental health counselor in private practice.

I am strongly opposed to Senate Bill 83 and its companion bill in the Ohio House. In both of my roles, diversity, equity and inclusion, combined, create liberation for all, not just the minority or majority. Without this work, our country will stay stuck where we are (and we are not in a united or good place as a nation). This bill denies what our country was built on – a diverse body of people. As a collective, this work needs to exist in order for us to understand one another and the systemic barriers that keep certain populations where they are, while helping others thrive. As a psychotherapist, my education in understanding systems and diversity was pivotal in helping my clients better understand themselves and the world around them. Without diversity, equity and inclusion, we silence voices that need to be heard and lift those that have a platform with or without this work.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this dangerous bill that will keep us from growing into the country we aspire to be. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.