

Testimony of Cameron Tiefenthaler
Before the Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee
Senator Jerry Cirino, Chair
April 19, 2023

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

My name is Cameron Tiefenthaler, and I am a junior at Miami University in Oxford, OH. I serve as the current Secretary of Governmental Relations in Miami's Associated Student Government. I do not represent Miami's student government but rather am submitting testimony as a private citizen in opposition to Senate Bill 83.

This bill is wholly antithetical to what we learn in the classroom about being an inclusive and productive citizen. If passed, the bans on diversity, equity, and inclusion training and the limitation of class discussions on race, gender, and sexual orientation are de jure discrimination to silence these perspectives. There are several situations and course materials in which students should not have to "reach their own informed conclusions." Accurately recounting our American history and the current American setting often leads to only one conclusion being drawn; professors should not be afraid to state what this reality is. Failing to discuss diversity in the classroom sets Ohio up for failure and frankly will discourage students from attending higher education in our state.

The ramifications of this legislation, if passed, and the banning of diversity training might prohibit accreditation for some of our students. For example, our social work students seeking accreditation from Ohio must have conversations and training on diversity to practice their field, which would be banned from this legislation.

Additionally, the legislation's restrictions on the People's Republic of China will further propel anti-Asian and anti-Chinese sentiments and hate on our campus and elsewhere.

Overall, this legislation would have much more prejudicial and negative effects than any promotion of the "diversity of thought" it is meant to support. **Passing this bill is entirely against the best interests of Ohio students, professors, and staff.**