

My name is Camryn Smith (she/her) and I am graduating from Ohio University in Athens Ohio with a bachelor's degree in Social Work in two short weeks. I want to share my reasons for opposition to SB 83 and how I believe the bill undermines education and freedom of speech as a whole.

I am a social work intern at Ohio University's LGBT center and in my time there I have learned that one of the greatest success factors for university students is a sense of belonging. Everyone deserves the freedom to engage with and learn topics that support their personal goals, even if they are goals other people do not agree with.

I have taken multiple women's gender and sexuality studies courses in my time in university, and no one in that course is forced to be there. In the same regard there are courses offered at this university and other public universities that I would never take because they do not align with my goals as a student. That is a crucial part of education and existing out in the real world.

No one deserves the power to control what information people can learn - think of book burnings in Nazi Germany, think of the Soviet Union destroying books from libraries. This injustice is in direct opposition to everything this country was founded on.

One of the primary values of the Social Work profession is self-determination, the belief that people deserve to be trusted to be the experts of their own lives. University students deserve the right to determine what information aligns with their personal values - this is not an issue that requires government interference.

Thank you for your time.

- Camryn Smith