

I appreciate you taking the time to read my written testimony. My name is Ethan Botzenhart I grew up in Girard Ohio. I lived there all my life until I graduated in 2019. I then went to The University of Akron to get my Bachelor in Psychology. I graduate in May. This decision will not impact my education experience but does still impact me. I want the education system to be as I had it. This country was built with the idea of freedom. SB 83 takes away the rights of our professors who had taught us to think for ourselves. There is a myth that we are being brainwashed into some democrat cult and this is wrong. The truth is with the rights we have now we are free to debate topics like religion, violence, politics, abortion, race, social class, and the LGBTQ community. Everyone has the right to speak their part including the instructor.

The fact is there is no group agreement but civil debate. With SB 83 taking away the ability to have controversial discussions, what is the point of being a psychology major? If we can not learn about the outliers or the demons in our society, what is the point? We need discussion. That is what makes this country democratic is the debate and group decision. Also I believe this is an overreach. Shouldn't the students be deciding what happens or the people; what about the professors that have earned their degrees that teach the classes. Why is it that the state decides what happens in my classroom when the state has nothing to do with my class?

I also think this is insulting. This seems like a way to protect students from being persuaded but we do not need protection. We are all adults that deserve to speak freely. The first amendment should be protected in the classroom and this bill takes that away from our professors rights and our education. Regardless of the classroom these discussions will continue. The difference is this structure of debate and the quality of factual based studies are a part of the classroom. Please do not let this bill pass. Both for my state and my fellow classmates. Along with my professors rights. I believe SB 83 is wrong and should not pass.