

Opponent Testimony for Senate Bill 83

Senate Committee on Workforce and Higher Education

April 19, 2023

Sophia Shannon

Student at The Ohio State University

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

Thank you for accepting my testimony today. My name is Sophia Shannon and I am a student at The Ohio State University, attending on the Morrill Scholarship. As a student of the Ohio public school system, a Political Science major, a daughter of parents working in higher education, and a member of the community, I am concerned at the contents of this bill.

The Morrill Scholarship, which I have received, is a diversity based social justice program. It has paid for my tuition at OSU and will allow me to complete my education at this institution. I have had the opportunity to attend events and learn more about people of all different backgrounds and ideologies, and I know many who would not be able to attend college at all if it weren't for the opportunity this program provides. The program welcomes all students and helps them achieve the education they deserve. If this bill is passed, it could damage our program and take away this opportunity from students who deserve to be here. I could lose my scholarship and a community all in one, and many students could lose the chance to graduate.

While I have much more to say, I will end my testimony here. I am grateful for the time you have given to me. I hope that you will take my words into consideration and vote no on Senate Bill 83. Thank you.