

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 Catalina Iannone. This month, I will wrap up my first year as a tenure-track Assistant Professor in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at The Ohio State University. I am speaking today as an individual and not on behalf of my university, to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 83.

You might wonder what the qualifications are for a position like mine. I hold a PhD from The University of Texas at Austin and an MA and BA from New York University. I was a Fulbright scholar. My articles have been published in top journals and my first book is forthcoming from Vanderbilt University Press. In the span of my career, I have taught sixteen different courses ranging from Beginning Spanish to Spanish Film, to a graduate seminar on Iberian Cities. I have been awarded over 110,000 dollars in grant funding. Prior to joining The Ohio State University, I worked as a tenure track faculty member at the State University of New York. In comparison to my colleagues, my accolades and experience are average. This is because OSU is currently able to attract, hire, and retain highly qualified and respected educators in all fields of study given its standing as one of the nation's best public institutions. This will no longer be the case if Senate Bill 83 passes.

The proposed bill mandates what should be taught in our classrooms. It creates unnecessary bureaucratic obstacles for our institutions' faculty, staff, and administrators. It prohibits mandatory trainings that help people like me, a first generation American and young woman, feel

safe and secure in the workplace. If this legislation is passed, I can assure you that potential employees will be wary of taking positions, not just at OSU but at all of this state's public and private institutions of higher education, and current employees will think twice about staying. Without high caliber faculty, our programs will falter. Without quality programs, students will look beyond Ohio for their schooling. Institutions around the country are shuttering because of a lack of students. This is not beyond the scope of possibility for universities and colleges in Ohio. Chairman Cirino has asserted that the bill is designed to "ensure the very best performance and quality of our higher education institutions," but the strong opposition you are hearing today demonstrates that it will do exactly the opposite.

Last year, I was selected from a pool of national candidates for my current position at The Ohio State University. I uprooted my life to move to this state for the opportunity to teach, research, and contribute to a rigorous, highly respected scholarly environment. I want to continue to build my career in Ohio but now fear that this bill might derail those plans.

As an instructor, I teach my students to evaluate evidence and make informed decisions. In this same spirit, I ask that you consider my testimony, and all of the opposition testimony you are hearing today and vote **no** on this harmful bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify. I will now take any questions you may have.