

Proponent Testimony for Senate Bill 83
Senate Committee on Workforce and Higher Education
April 19, 2023

Adam Abbott
The Ohio State University, Student

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

I am a student at The Ohio State University wishing to express my support and how the passage of this bill's anti-discrimination sections will positively impact our university's student experience and academic excellence.

Throughout my teen years I have witnessed the increase in political discourse not only online, but in the classroom because of inflammatory mainstream coverage and misinformation online that does nothing but radicalize us as a population. This has led to increasing disconnect between left and right, where this has unfortunately led to staff and students to voice their controversial ideas in inappropriate manners and places. This policy would prevent instructors and administrators of all courses from enforcing their opinions on others, regardless of their beliefs. Is this not just common sense?

This bill will allow students like me to express our opinions in a variety of ways without having to worry about repercussions. This bill has my full support. Senate Bill 83 will do more for students than any DEI or university administration office could effectively do to preserve our ability to obtain a depoliticized education.

I ask that this legislature consider my opinion and pass this bill, in its entirety, into law.

Thank you.