

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 Victoria Cataloni. I am a first year PhD student in Studies of the Portuguese Speaking World, in the department of Spanish and Portuguese at The Ohio State University. I am testifying today because, as a PhD student and someone who values intellectual freedom, I am strongly opposed to Senate Bill 83 and its companion bill in the Ohio House.

I have read some of the written testimonies from proponents of this Bill, and at least one of them implicates my department as a problem - a department which promotes discussion on gender and race, especially in terms of marginalization of these concepts. My own research deals with the issue of marginalization in terms of gender and race, which proponents of this Bill would certainly consider "controversial." I am deeply concerned that intellectual freedom and integrity will dissipate should Senate Bill 83 pass. I am concerned that I will no longer be able to openly converse in classes which are differentiated for undergraduates and graduate students. Although the Bill is intended to regulate the education of undergraduate students, graduate students are directly affected and silenced by this Bill. Some of our colleagues, classmates, and even the students we teach as Teaching Associates are these very undergraduate students.

The Ohio State University Annual Hispanic and Lusophone Studies Symposium is hosted by the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. It features research of graduate students nationally and internationally. This event is commonly advertised, and even promoted to undergraduates to attend - especially in the spirit of supporting our OSU community and graduate students in their professional research. Since this Bill targets specifically what professors and instructors are allowed to promote to undergraduates, our respected conference is in danger of becoming illegal under this Bill. Our right to freely discuss our research, as well as our right to invite colleagues on the international level to discuss their research - which almost without fail involves "controversial" topics such as marginalization due to gender or race, is being threatened under Bill 83.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this pernicious bill. Thank you again for this opportunity to testify.