

Written-Only Testimony: from Gina Osterloh
In Opposition to SB83
April 18, 2023
12:30pm

Dear Chairman Cirino, Vice Chair Rulli, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee,

I strongly oppose SB 83. In this statement, I represent myself. With this said, my personal experience in higher education in Ohio, is as an Assistant Professor at The Ohio State University, a university which I am very proud of.

As an assistant professor at OSU, I have worked with the most talented and unbiased workshops facilitators for Diversity Equity and Inclusion. The workshop facilitators include highly educated staff members from a diverse range of genders and racial backgrounds. Contrary to what many news outlets and sadly also government officials have stated in public– Diversity Equity and Inclusion trainings are not about indoctrination of any kind. Rather, it is important for law makers to know that Diversity Equity and Inclusion trainings in Higher Ed are led by non-biased educators who have helped me learn teaching methods which can support difference and diversity in the classroom.

DEI workshops and classes about race and gender are not scary, and the workshops and classes have nothing to do with indoctrination of any sort. Diversity Equity and Inclusion workshops, as well as classes about race and gender help staff members, educators, and students gain skills including communication skills and historical knowledge. Diversity Equity and Inclusion workshops, as well as courses about race and gender, enable students to be intellectually astute, unbiased, and competitive in our local, national, and global workforce. I oppose SB83 because it would make our students less informed citizens and less competitive in the job market.

In addition, the ban on collective bargaining is outright Un-American. Americans have the right to voice inequality in the workplace. A ban on collective bargaining would censor students, staff, and faculty.

In summary, SB83 is bad for students, bad for higher education, and bad for Ohio. SB 83 introduces a series of contradictions on freedom of speech, claiming to promote intellectual diversity while simultaneously dictating the content and methods in which certain topics can be discussed freely. SB83 would ban training and limit courses that enable all students access to freedom of speech and their ability to succeed.

From a proud Buckeye,
Gina Osterloh