

**Testimony of Patrick Houlihan, Student at Miami University  
Before the Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee  
Senator Jerry Cirino, Chair  
April 18th, 2023**

Chair Cirino, Vice Chair Rulli, Ranking Member Ingram, and Members of the Workforce and Higher Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony for S.B. 83

I am a full-time student currently enrolled at a public, state-funded university, Miami University (Oxford). I care deeply about quality education and quality educational institutions. S.B. 83 will damage the foundations which higher education is built upon. To learn and grow as students and people, diverse opinions, viewpoints, and information is required. This bill contrasts every effort of higher education's mission to inform and educate their students.

Removing DEI efforts, offices, communities, etc. would harm the student experience and education.. Miami University has Living Learning Communities (LLCs) that help incoming students make friends and build a network with people who have similar interests. S.B. 83 could eliminate these communities. As a member of the student government, our DEI secretary position and committee, which has done amazing work to help the community, would be outlawed. Miami University's Center for Diversity Equity and Inclusion would be outlawed. I have never seen an office with more students coming in and out, it's a keystone of Miami's minority student community. S.B. 83 removes a safe spot for many students on Miami University's campus and harms their ability to learn and live. Not to mention, the bill's direct attack on our sizable population of Chinese international students.

I am particularly passionate about labor and teachers' rights. The bill would make striking illegal and effectively kneecap teachers' unions. Any lawmaker that votes to approve this bill is an enemy of labor. You cannot claim to be pro-worker and then vilify workers for bargaining for better contracts. This clause of the bill is particularly despicable.

Many other sections of this bill are horrific, but I wish to keep my testimony to one page. The attack on freedom of speech, labor, minority groups, students, teachers, and in S.B. 83 is horrific and has no place in Ohio or the United States of America. Therefore, I am happy to condemn and oppose the current iteration of S.B. 83. I urge all lawmakers in Columbus to vote down this bill. Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.



**Patrick Houlihan**