

## Senate Bill 83 Verbal Testimony

Chair Cirino, Vice Chair Rulli, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Lauren González, and I am from San Antonio, Texas. I am a second-year student majoring in Public Management, Leadership, and Policy with a minor in Latino Studies.

I came to Ohio State University because I was given the incredible opportunity to be awarded the Morrill Scholarship Program's Distinction Scholarship, the highest scholarship a student could receive in the program. Since coming to Ohio State University, I have made an effort to engage in diversity and inclusion, social justice, and academic excellence on campus, which are the pillars of the Morrill Scholarship Program. I have done these things by being heavily involved on campus. I am a sister and hermana of Alpha Psi Lambda National Inc., the first and largest Co-ed Latino Fraternity, Vice President of Judicial Standards for the Multicultural Greek Council, Mentor for the Avanzando through College Program, and the Founder/President of Teal Week.

Being a part of these organizations has been a transformational experience as an out-of-state student. Because of these organizations, I have had incredible opportunities that have allowed me to grow as a student and an individual. The Morrill Scholarship Program allowed me to come to campus a week early before my first year of college, go on a tour of Ohio State, and have three days of programming with my small group that allowed me to connect with individuals and faculty that have turned into friends ever since. The Avanzando through College program allowed me to get situated here at Ohio State as a first year out of state student, was able to attend a conference that allowed me to network with Latino individuals in the workplace, and even sent me for a week Fellowship in Washington, DC to learn how to become a better advocate for my community. The Multicultural Greek Council has given me the pleasure of meeting

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people from all backgrounds and creating connections I wouldn't have before. Lastly, Alpha Phi Lambda has allowed me to become a confident young Latina woman, host my first ever townhall that 75 students attended, and register students to vote in the midterm elections, and has strengthened my personal and collective growth through education, leadership, cultural awareness, and community service.

Being part of a population on campus that comprises only 4% of your community can make your experience at a large University very intimidating. Because of these organizations, I felt confident enough to stay at Ohio State and not have to return home to my predominantly Hispanic City because I felt like I had places on campus that felt safe and like home at a predominantly white institution. However, if Senate Bill 83 is passed, this would harm student life and affect minority students coming to this University. Senate Bill 83 jeopardizes the ability to join student organizations centered around an individual's background, giving a student a place to feel accepted and supported on campus. It would also take away why Ohio State University is extraordinary. Besides getting a full-ride scholarship to the Ohio State University, I wanted to come here because I knew that I would get the best education and have a community on campus that would make me a well-rounded student and grow as an individual — having places on campus like Hall Center that has the Latina Student Success Center, going into the Ohio Union and studying or having lunch with my brothers and sisters in my fraternities office, general body meetings for the Multicultural Greek Council, Avanzando through College meetings, and so many more places on campus that have made my experience at Ohio State's amazing. If this bill was passed, it would drastically change student life here at Ohio State and would not make Ohio State as appealing to out-of-state students as it once was. If I was a high school senior and knew that there wouldn't be places on campus at Ohio State that would make me feel supported and

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help me grow as an individual, I would choose to stay in Texas. In fact, almost half of the Morrill Scholars Program is comprised of out-of-state students. I bet if you asked any of those individuals why they came to Ohio State as an out-of-state student, they would say the same thing I said here, which was that the places on campus are what makes Ohio State home and passing Senate Bill 83 would be taken away people's places of support acceptance and for me places on campus that make me feel at home even a thousand miles away.

Diversity and inclusion are what makes Ohio State a fantastic campus. Diversity and inclusion are what make all college campuses exceptional. Diversity inclusion is the reason why we as a society have been able to move forward and become better individuals because we get to meet people from different backgrounds, different classes, different languages, and different experiences that help us become the people that we want to be in the next 20 years. Diversity and inclusion programs help all students and allow students to be connected to DEI faculty. I would not be the person I am today without faculty from the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, and I know many ODI students can attest to what I just said. Operationally and fiscally, passing Senate 83 would have horrible impacts on student life and the University as a whole since the student organizations and campus programs make Ohio State University THE Ohio State University.

So, members of the Senate Workforce and higher education committee, I'm asking you to look at every individual, every student in this room who is here today to tell you why you should not pass Senate Bill 83. Listen to their stories, experiences, and reasons why they are telling you why Senate Bill 83 should not be passed. This is more than politics, more than party lines, this is our lives that you are affecting, and you have the ability to be on the other side of history and vote against Senate Bill 83. Chair Cirino, Vice Chair Rulli, Ranking Member Ingram, and

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members of the Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity again to testify today, and please vote no for Senate Bill 83.