

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 Sydney Jones. I am an Ohio resident, working in higher education. Before my work in higher education, I spent eight years as a public servant, working in the Hamilton County government. I am strongly opposed to Senate Bill 83 and its companion bill in the Ohio House

As a current employee of the University of Cincinnati's Office of Inclusive Excellence, I have seen first hand how education can share our future. Senate Bill 83 proposes harmful changes to the way our current and future students will learn and grow. This bill will make a negative impact on Equity and Inclusion on Ohio campuses. The ban on partnerships with China, will change the way history and Asian learning courses are taught, or they may face bans. International students from China will experience funding lost and future international students will not be able to gain an education in our state.

The ban on mandatory DEI training is a ban on safety in higher education. Students of all kinds deserve to feel safe on our campuses. DEI training, like the one I teach, is impactful and important. Banning affinity groups are taking away places of refuge that students depend on to feel safe. We are putting our students at physical and psychological risk by banning these groups and training. As a woman of color at a primarily white intuition, I needed safe affinity spaces like the Black Student Union. Most weeks, it was the only place I felt I was allowed to be myself. I strongly oppose Senate Bill 83 and its components that effect these areas:

- University mission statements
 - DEI policies and practices
 - Policies related to intellectual diversity and divisive concepts
 - Syllabus requirements
 - Faculty workload, evaluation, and post-tenure review processes
 - Partnerships with the People's Republic of China
 - Board of Trustees training
 - Campus speakers
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- A requirement of an American history/government course for all undergraduates
 - Financial reporting
 - A prohibition on employees of any state institution of higher education to strike

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

Sydney Jones