

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 Peyton Matik and I am a third year student at Miami University. I am strongly opposed to Senate Bill 83 and its companion bill in the Ohio House.

First and foremost I would like to thank you for continued interest in the improvement of higher education, and congratulate you on your stance on the removal of The Reserve Officers' Training Corps from university campuses. As I'm sure you are all well aware, Sec. 3345.0217 clearly states that all colleges and universities must "allow and encourage students to reach their own conclusions about all controversial matters" while prohibiting them to "inculcate any social, political, or religious point of view," and prohibits universities from requiring students to "endorse, assent to, or publicly express a given ideology, political stance, or view of a social policy" in order to be admitted or graduate from an academic program. Ohio is home to multiple Military Science with The Ohio State University ranked 42 in the United States with many of these programs requiring participation in the reserve officer training program. Unfortunately in order to join this program students are required to swear an oath stating that "[They] do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same... So help me God."

The so called "biases" this bill claims to fight against are found in more programs and organizations than you realize. If you attempt to use this bill as a platform to shut down discussions, classrooms, and programs built around the inclusion of ideas you will inadvertently shutting down your own. I can assure you that endangering thousands of Chinese students who attend colleges in Ohio as their tuition payments could be considered to be funding "arranged by an entity affiliated with the

People's Republic of China." silencing diverse voices in the name of promoting "diversity of thought", and prohibiting faculty members from advocating for their right and livelihoods is not the way to make positive change.

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