

## **Testimony Template**

### **Opponent Testimony for Senate Bill 83 Senate Committee on Workforce and Higher Education April 19, 2023**

**Margaret Rozelman  
Student and student employee at The Ohio State University**

Chair Cirino, Vice Chair Rulli, Ranking Member Ingram, and Members of the Workforce and Higher Education Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Margaret Rozelman. I am a neuroscience pre-medicine student at The Ohio State University. I am a member of an extremely diverse and academically exceptional community that I am proud to call home. I am here to express my concern for what would happen if our senate were to pass Bill 83. Many of the ideas being upturned in this bill would be devastating to education, and potentially dangerous for minority groups. We so loudly claim our beliefs of freedom of speech, yet when the marginalized voices try to talk, our nation silences them.

I am growing up in a time period where there is a fear of going to school. Fear of not coming home, and fear of working so hard all these years to provide for a devastated world. Our leaders are so deeply worried about the completely wrong issues when it comes to what kind of country the nation's young people are raised in. The first time I received any type of schooling on diversity and inclusion was in college. Despite being extremely important information that would supply me with tools needed to function for the rest of my career, I was withheld so much knowledge. As a future healthcare worker, this knowledge is a complete necessity. The DEI requirement is a necessary matter. If you want to teach history you must teach all of it, especially including the voices of those who have been subjected to violence and inequality for so long. Additionally, without the ability to boycott and strike, we lose so much of our freedom. My community will lose its ability to stand up for what they believe in and push for change.

This bill will impact so many different communities. From those who are a part of the LGBTQ+ community, African-Americans, Latinx, American Indians, Asian Americans, and many other marginalized groups. Teaching about their history, and the different ways the nation has previously wronged these groups, is the only way to prevent these injustices from happening again. Professors who are a part of the DEI program here at Ohio State may no longer have their jobs and get to teach and educate others on what they have

worked so hard to be qualified for. Overall, this change would be devastating for so many different students at my university, in our state, and across our nation.

I am testifying against Ohio Senate Bill 83 to stand up for all of those around me who have worked so hard to be heard. Bringing this law into action would have unfixable consequences and hinder learning for all. I ask that you vote no, so this bill does not pass. So students in America can at least feel somewhat safe in their education despite the other threats they are forced to face every day due to a lack of action from our government. I ask that you please consider my testimony and vote no on Ohio Senate Bill 83.

Thank you.