



Youngstown Warren Black Caucus

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April 18, 2023

The Honorable Jerry Cirino
Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee
Ohio Senate Building
1 Capitol Square; Ground Floor 034
Columbus, OH 43215

Chairman Cirino,

The Youngstown Warren Black Caucus strongly opposes the language in SB 83. We do not want the bill not advanced and want this entered as written testimony.

We especially take offense at your ban of teaching and hiring diversity and inclusion professionals at any school, but especially at the college and university level. It does not make sense that elected officials who claim to love this nation that is often referred to as a “great melting pot” of people and cultures, yet aggressively attempt to demonize educating young adults on the rich and beautiful aspects of those many cultures that comprise our diverse communities. By banning diversity, equity, and inclusion at any level, you are directly promoting **exclusion** of all cultures, races, and ethnic groups that you don’t personally belong to. There is nothing American about that.

Lastly, we do not support taking away any collective bargaining rights from college staff. Prohibiting them from being able to strike, is a backdoor attempt at union busting. Ohio voters rejected these kinds of measures in 2011 with the defeat of then Senate Bill 5. We stand with organized labor against this attack on worker rights. No supporter of working families would ever support this bill.

Jaladah Aslam, President

CC: Sen. Michael Rulli, 33rd District
Sen. Catherine Ingram, 9th District