

I, Amy Koshoffer, express my immense opposition to Ohio Senate Bill 83. I am a proud employee of the University of Cincinnati where I have been both a staff member and a faculty member. I chose to stay at the University because it has been a place of ideas and learning. I have loved that students come to the university to embark on the biggest time of growth in their lives. As a staff member, I experienced more hardship as I was employed at a time when staff did not receive paid time off for the birth of children. Also I was in a very poorly paid position. It was through the effort of the AAUP and faculty bargaining that my salary was increased though I was not a member. Now that I am in the library, I have faculty status. I greatly appreciate the recognition of the university that librarians do scholarship and fully participate in the education of students. I also love that I can teach an honors course focused on data which helps students understand the technology dependent world we live in. Also as a librarian we help students understand and be critical consumers of the information and data they interact with daily. Given how partisan our country is, the ability to truly evaluate information is paramount regardless of your political affiliation. I fear Senate Bill 83 has the potential to strip me of my faculty status. Like many in the arts, I have the terminal degree of my field. I have a master's of library and information science. I have worked very hard to achieve tenure by participating in teaching, service, and scholarship. I submitted two dossiers, the second was my tenure application. I worked very hard for my tenure, and I really resent that the Ohio State Government does not seem to value my professionalism and my investment in the students at the university through my teaching, scholarship, and service. Senators have claimed that our work is as valuable as healthcare workers as their basis to remove our right to strike, and with the same breath, deny us the rights to organize and bargain for better working conditions. With every contract negotiation there is always an attempt to remove benefits, not the desire to reward the years' hard work we put in. It always feels that every negotiation is just hours away from the union having to declare a strike. I find it stressful that each time we have to go to these lengths. I am grateful that the union works to ensure I can continue to afford healthcare for me and my family. If Ohio state senators feel faculty are as critical as healthcare workers, where is the discussion about paying faculty the same salaries as emergency room physicians and the guarantee we all have good healthcare? Why make us fight so hard to keep what benefits we have. My experience is the faculty union makes life better for all employees of the university.