

Testimony of Fedor Nazarov, PhD  
Before the Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee  
Senator Jerry Cirino, Chair  
May 15, 2023

Chair Cirino, Vice Chair Rulli, Ranking Member Ingram, and Members of the Workforce and Higher Education Committee: My name is Fedor Nazarov, and I am a professor of mathematics at Kent State University, where I have taught for 11 years. I do not represent Kent State University, but rather am submitting testimony as a private citizen in opposition to House Bill 83.

The bill, if passed in the current form, will severely restrict the established faculty rights and freedoms including but not limited to the opportunity to collectively or individually bargain for various terms of employment. It imposes completely unnecessary requirements (like obligatory annual review of all faculty) that will create nothing but excessive administrative workloads. I consider those parts going against all normal established practices in the USA academia and detrimental to our ability to attract top notch workforce to the state of Ohio. The current employment practices and policies of the Kent State University are completely satisfactory for balancing the interests of the administration, the faculty, the students, and the general public, and upsetting this balance for no apparent reason will do no good in my opinion. Hence I oppose HB83 as a whole in its current form. On the other hand, I support limited curbing of the widespread DEI practices. However, even in that case, the bill should only prohibit the administration or the organization as a whole to coerce anybody to subscribe to the DEI initiatives or to submit any DEI statements in any form. The right of the organizations and individuals to come up with and to support DEI initiatives on their free will should not be interfered with as well as the right to promote or oppose any other views and actions that aren't directly prohibited under the current USA laws.