

Office of the Chair on Workforce and Higher Education Committee
Senator Jerry Cirino
Jacob Dowling
May 16, 2023

Written Testimony Opposing the proposed Substitute Senate Bill 83

This bill is frankly outrageous for many reasons, and is obviously part of a greater movement nationwide of rising fascism. It is blatantly a small part of the larger aggressive movements to disenfranchise everyone who is not a wealthy white Christian man. To be specific, and brutally clear, here is a brief and non-inclusive list of some of the HORRENDOUS content of this bill:

- Ban on DEI training
- Authoritarian "syllabus" oversight
- Prohibiting censure of white supremacy/racism/bigotry
- The assertion that college campuses are not currently "intellectually diverse", and the greater implication that hatred/bigotry/white supremacy/ethnocentrism is valuable and will be required to be taught as a viable "alternate opinion"
- Prohibition of institutions taking stances against hate, or for human rights
- Prohibiting boycotts, disinvestments, or sanctions
- Banning of affirmative action
- Anti-Chinese rhetoric
- Prohibiting strikes, and otherwise hindering collective bargaining/weakening unions/labor rights
- Promoting the asinine concept touted by reactionary hate groups of "white racism" and claiming things like "white men shouldn't have to be made uncomfortable by hearing about how bad we are".

In summary, I oppose this proposed bill as loudly and vehemently as possible, as do the vast majority of Ohioans. Even if you yourself are truly at your core a white supremacist and don't care about oppressing and persecuting marginalized peoples such as BIPOC and LGBTQ+, you must realize practically that bills like this nationwide are contributing to a greater "brain drain" in the "reddest"/right-wing states. Increasingly, people with the means to flee for greener pastures in more reasonable/developed/democratic states are taking the opportunity to do so. Ill-intentioned, authoritarian, and reactionary bills like this proposed SB 83 will drive out the young, educated, hardworking electorate that Ohio needs to thrive.

Sincerely,
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