

Testimony of Dr. Mack Hagood, Associate Professor, Miami University
Before the Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee
Senator Jerry Cirino, Chair
May 16, 2023

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

My name is Mack Hagood, and I am a professor of Media and Communication at Miami University, where I have taught for ten years. I do not represent Miami, but rather I am submitting testimony as a private citizen in opposition to Senate Bill 83.

SB 83 adds a complex, burdensome, and unfunded mandate on a university already stretched thin by this Senate's underinvestment in higher education. Students at Miami come to our university to learn, not to be pawns in politicians' culture war games. And yet, money will have to be diverted from their instruction to pay for yet more administrators to handle the bloated bureaucratic mandate that is SB 83.

This bill is all the more absurd because it is a solution in search of a problem. Students today are stressed out and distracted by the high price of underfunded public universities, the possibility of getting shot in their classrooms, the atmosphere of political strife created by cynical politicians, the lingering impacts of the Coronavirus pandemic, and their ever-present, attention-destroying smartphones. We professors are lucky if we can get them to do their reading and show up for class. The fact that you think we are capable of brainwashing students too stressed out and distracted to even pay attention shows how completely out of touch you are with reality.

If the Senate wants to do something for higher education in this state, start with the issues I mention above—first of them being to start paying for higher ed again rather than diverting funds away from instruction and toward whatever anti-woke hallucination you seem to be experiencing.

Sincerely,

Mack Hagood, Ph.D