

Testimony of Christiane Buuck

Before the House Workforce and Higher Education Committee

Rep. Tom Young, Chair

March 11, 2025

Chair Young, Vice Chair Ritter, Ranking Member Piccolantonio, and Members of the Higher Education Committee:

My name is Christiane Buuck, and I am a senior lecturer of English at The Ohio State University. I do not represent The Ohio State University but rather am submitting testimony as a private citizen. I write to oppose this bill because Ohio's students deserve better than this piece of partisan political activism that is designed to stifle intellectual freedom, critical thinking, and learning. I write to oppose this bill because it will hamstring the important work of research and teaching that happens in this university. I also write to oppose this bill because it will tarnish the reputation and brand of the state's flagship university, thus hurting the state economy.

What world-renowned researcher would want to teach at a university where academic freedom doesn't exist? How much grant money, important research, and prestige will this legislation cost the university over time? And how much tuition money will the university lose when out-of-state and international students look elsewhere for their degrees, no matter how good the football team might be. Think of the cost to businesses in the state of Ohio as the economic engine that is OSU sputters, and when its graduates flee the state.

I could write to oppose this bad bill because it arises straight out of the authoritarian playbook and is designed to negatively impact teachers and researchers and students and the sacred space of the classroom, but I do not think that argument is one that this body is most interested in hearing. Instead, I urge you to oppose this bill purely for the negative economic and brand consequences it will have for OSU and for the state of Ohio.