

Testimony of Monica C. Schneider, PhD  
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 Monica C. Schneider and I am a professor of Political Science at Miami University where I have taught since 2007. I do not represent Miami University, but rather am submitting testimony as a private citizen with expertise in higher education in general and political science specifically.

I have several concerns about this bill, including the government overreach in dictating what faculty teach in the classroom, the use of student evaluations in performance evaluation, and generally limiting the freedom of faculty to pursue research in the state of Ohio. We are facing a demographic crisis where all Ohio institutions are competing for a small number of students across the country and the world. This bill would hamper Miami's ability to attract and retain top students and faculty.

Importantly, I cannot find a single person who is in favor of this bill. Students are against it. Faculty do not like it. The general voting public has no expertise in higher education and they are also not clamoring for any bills that create additional government red tape (which is exactly what this bill would do).

Under our system of government, the public places trust in you, the elected representatives to rise above factions. Madison, in Federalist 10, envisioned a group of representatives, "whose wisdom may best discern the true interest of their country, and whose patriotism and love of justice will be least likely to sacrifice it to temporary or partial considerations." Madison cautioned in Federalist 51 that men are not angels – requiring not only the system of government but the checks on government itself. I hop that you see that actions of overreach are *not* in the true, long-term interests of this state and, that the expert voices of the people should be heard.