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My name is Hal R. Arkes. I've been a faculty member at both Ohio University and Ohio State University from 1972 until 2011.

I'm here in support of the proposed bill. The first question I want to address is "What is the problem this bill is trying to solve?" There is a two-part answer to this question. The first part is the overwhelming preponderance of liberals versus conservatives among university faculty. According to one survey, in English the liberal to conservative ratio is 88 to 3. In the social sciences it is 75 to 9. In humanities it is 81 to 9. These lopsided statistics would be of no concern except that liberals

confess to being discriminatory against conservatives. That is the second part of my answer. In 2012 Inbar and Lammers published a pair of studies that asked psychology faculty if they would discriminate against conservative faculty. For example, over one in three of the psychologists said they would discriminate against conservatives in hiring decisions. The proposed bill prohibits any political litmus tests in faculty hiring.

Another feature of the proposed bill that is vital is the required 3-hour course in US history or government. Professors Ravitch and Finn surveyed 17-year-olds on such topics. Their nationwide survey generally had 4-option multiple-choice questions. A blind-folded person would therefore get 25% correct by sheer guessing. Less than 50% of these students knew anything about the Dred Scott decision. Less than one-third knew in what half-century the Civil War was fought. Percentage of correct answers on all questions pertaining to the Constitution was only 54%. To say that a course in US history or government is

needed would be a vast understatement. Currently such a course is not required despite its dire need.

Some opponents of the bill have stated that this bill impinges on academic freedom. I think that the current situation is a lot more damaging to academic freedom. The Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression found in a large survey that 60% of US college students self-censor their political views. This bill prohibits a requirement of a program in the OSU College of Education and Human Ecology that all participants in the program must acknowledge White privilege. In my opinion neither this political view nor any political view should be required in order to participate in any Ohio university official program. The current proposed bill would rectify this situation.

Training in “microaggression” teaches students to feel oppressed if someone asks an innocuous question such as “Where are you from?” This is probably the single most common question asked by freshmen on their first day on campus. I suggest that

no freshman would think they were being treated aggressively when asked this question. OSU has multiple courses in microaggression detection.

In my opinion, the current proposed bill does much more to promote the goals we all want than does the current situation on Ohio's colleges and universities.

I'd be pleased to answer any question you might have.