



CHRISTIAN BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP

Ohio's Christian Chamber of Commerce

To: Chair Senator Brenner
Vice Chair Senator Blessing
Ranking Member Senator Ingram
Senate Education Committee

From: Monty Lobb
Executive Director
Christian Business Partnership

Re: Support for SB113

Good afternoon, Chairman Brenner, Vice Chairman Blessing, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Senate Education Committee. My name is Monty Lobb, the Executive Director of the Christian Business Partnership, a division of Center for Christian Virtue, and I'm here to give proponent testimony for SB113.

As the leader of an organization with over 300 businesses in Ohio, my members want and need a workforce that is quite capable of meeting the character and competency expectations of their internal and external stakeholders. At the heart of developing young people to flow into the dynamic Ohio economic workplace seamlessly is the hiring authority's desire to witness and consistently count on critical thinking, problem-solving, and ethical decision-making in Generation Z students. You've heard me testify on this subject matter in SB1 as it relates to college-age students, but these skills I'm talking about must take root much earlier in our children's lives.

As a college professor for the past 17 years (up until 12/31/24) at three Ohio universities, teaching at the undergraduate and graduate level, in person and online, instructing business, law, and government courses, I've had a ringside seat to witness firsthand a number of students who come to me without the requisite writing and critical thinking skills to eventually compete for good paying jobs. With the stability of Ohio's families at an alarming risk and a greater level of belief that the "American Dream" is unattainable, do we really need Ohio's school districts to spend time, money, and other resources promoting DEI curriculum and philosophies? I think not. For that reason, I applaud SB113 for its desire to rid our public school districts of DEI indoctrination. From the lens of a college professor, in no way does DEI training help develop and nurture those three skill sets prospective employers seek.



CHRISTIAN BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP

Ohio's Christian Chamber of Commerce

As a Professor of Government, and with my background as an attorney, I taught in a Socratic fashion instead of lecturing. This format allowed for critical thinking because I intellectually and logically challenged my students to think for themselves and defend their rationale. Unfortunately, due to the shaming and intimidating nature of DEI, I've had a number of students come to me who are either afraid to share their opinions or haven't experienced an educational setting where critical thinking skills were encouraged and honed.

If even half the reports I've seen about DEI indoctrination around Ohio are true, then this body must do everything in its power to restore some sense of normalcy and balance to our K-12 classrooms. It is no secret that our children are vulnerable in every capacity, so the state must not lead or be complicit in harming our children. DEI is a philosophy that is nowhere near the mainstream of American political culture. Common sense on these societal issues left the arena a long time ago.

Ohio public school districts that spend OUR taxpayer monies on DEI staff, training, and other resources are not thinking about what's best for students and their preparation for college or vocational training, let alone the Ohio workforce. In a day when Ohio's economy ranks 35th in economic performance and 20th in economic outlook according to the American Legislative Exchange Council and Laffer State Economic Competitiveness Index, a clear signal should be noticed that something is wrong regarding an alignment of educational and economic priorities.

May this Body, charged with stewarding public monies and confidence and thereby gaining the trust of Ohioans, promote legislation that enhances student development into workforce development, effectively reduces wasteful spending, and holds governmental institutions accountable for compliance. Such action is always a welcomed relief. For these reasons concerning DEI, the Christian Business Partnership supports SB113.

I would be happy to entertain any questions at this time.