



Jeanne Ogden
Testimony on HB 151 and SB 83
May 11, 2023

This is a letter I sent to my father's colleagues at NASA regarding these harmful bills. I urge you, for the sake of Ohio, Ohio's economy, Ohio's best and brightest to vote no on these bills.

Ohio voters have stepped up, showed up, in huge numbers to oppose them. When Ohio's economy fails, who are they going to blame.

I am available to discuss this further.

Re: Potential Impact of Proposed Ohio Legislation targeting higher education, transgender human rights on Ohio Aviation and Aerospace Industry

On behalf of Trans Allies of Ohio, I felt it was important to bring to you our perspective on recent legislation proposed by members of the Republican Party that, if passed, will likely impact Ohio's Aviation and Aerospace research industries and institutions of higher learning's ability to attract and retain top tech talent. There is still time to stop these bills from passing.

Context

Since Ohio's 135th General Assembly was sworn in January 2023, bills have been proposed, debated, and voted out of committee that target the rights of parents of transgender children to direct their children's healthcare, Title IX rights of transgender students and student athletes, university diversity, equity, and inclusion programs, free speech, organized labor, and tenure, and retirement funding options that incorporate social justice goals, and more.

As the mother of a twenty-two-year-old transgender daughter and an ally of Ohio's transgender community, I am concerned for their welfare. As the daughter of a retired NASA Glenn Research Center materials scientist and NASA Glenn Research Hall of fame inductee, I worry about the potential "brain drain" that Ohio's Aviation and Aerospace industry may soon face. Bright scholars, faculty, and talent are crossing Ohio off their list just as Ohio ramps up efforts to build Ohio's reputation as an aviation and aerospace powerhouse.

Ohio House Committee on Aviation and Aerospace

Ohio's new House Committee on Aviation and Aerospace released their goals earlier this year. I have attached them for your reference, but I would like to highlight their mission, vision, and goal #4 here:

Mission: Unify and accelerate Ohio's AA sector development.

Vision: Ohio is a global leader in AA commercial enterprise, workforce development, and public service applications.

4: Supporting public safety/National security objectives (Build in America)

- a. Establish AA specific Critical Infrastructure protection policy
- b. Increase cooperation with DoD and NASA AA security efforts
- c. Enhance the federal AA defense industrial base.¹

At the Committee's May 9 meeting, we listened to several industry leaders discuss the need for more funding and programs to meet the need for STEM educated workers from airplane mechanics to drone pilots and aerospace engineering PhDs. At the present rate of recruitment, demand will far outstrip demand. We were also told that this problem has national defense and security implications. I have attached their testimonies for reference.

The current Republican agenda does not set Ohio up for success.

Proposed Legislation

1. Ohio Senate Bill 83

- Bans required DEI training, programs based on gender and race, partnerships with China, and employee strikes;
- Requires online posting of syllabi and reporting and publishing of violations and performance evaluations;
- Withholds state funding and tenure for violations of law regarding discussion of controversial topics including climate change, equity, foreign policy, marriage, etc.
- I have attached both Honesty for Ohio Education and the American Association of University Professors Ohio Conference' summaries and analysis. I've also included the most recent version of the bill (which is not posted on the state website), and the testimony of Dr. John Michael Mills, Chair of Ohio State's Materials Science and Engineering Program.
- *Status:* This bill will most likely be voted out of the Ohio Senate Committee on Workforce and Higher Education next week and could be voted on by the Ohio Senate as well. Comments and testimony have overwhelmingly opposed this bill. Without significant, sustained push back, including real-world applied consequences from new demographics, this bill will pass.

2. Ohio House Bill 151

- This bill mirrors Senate Bill 83 on the Ohio House side.
- *Status:* Opponent Testimony Hearing on May 17, 2023 @ 1030 am. Testimony and witness slip deadline is May 16 @ 10 am.

3. Ohio House Bill 6

- Requires schools, colleges, and universities to establish separate single-sex athletic teams for females and males;
- Bans “biological” males from participating on female teams;
- Allows civil actions for violations.
- This bill will prohibit all transgender girls and young women from kindergarten through collegiate athletics from playing competitive sports on the team that corresponds to their gender identity.
- OHSSA already requires all transgender athletes to submit comprehensive medical information to prove they do not possess an unfair advantage before being permitted to play and there have been zero complaints here in Ohio up until the writing of this email.
- The bill is based on misinformation which members of my team would be happy to dispel and is essentially a barbaric solution to a problem that does not exist.
- I have attached Honesty for Ohio Education’s Analysis.
- *Status:* This bill was voted out of the House Higher Education Committee on May 10 and will likely be voted on by the whole Ohio House soon. Testimony was overwhelming opposed to this bill, and without significant and sustained pushback from new demographics, will pass.

5. HB 103 - Social Studies Task Force

- Creates a Social Studies Standards Task Force (with conservative appointees of the Governor, Senate President, and House Speaker) to develop K-12 social studies standards.
- This bill’s sponsor promotes the statewide implementation of the American Birthright Curriculum, a nationalist version of history promoted by the Heritage Foundation and other Southern Poverty Law Center recognized hate groups.
- Status: This bill received sponsor testimony in the House Committee on Primary and Secondary Education on May 10. Find more information here:
<https://civicsalliance.org/american-birthright/>
<https://www.socialstudies.org/current-events-response/ncss-statement-american-birthright-civics-alliances-model-k-12-social>
<https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/135/hb103>

6. Ohio House Bill 68

- Bans puberty blockers, hormone treatment, and all surgical interventions as treatment for transgender children under age 18. Surgical treatment of minors is not used in the scope of accepted practice in Ohio in almost all cases.
- Usurps the rights of parents of transgender children to make health decisions for their families.
- Forbids “aiding and abetting” by doctors who refer patients out of state
- Requires state mandated treatment protocols for children before being treated for gender dysphoria.
- Requires doctors and psychologists treating minors for gender dysphoria to forward certain unidentifiable information about their patients who will then send it to the Ohio legislature for review.
- Requires all children in the state who are currently receiving gender-affirming medical care to detransition within 6 months of the law’s effective date.
- This bill is based on false and misleading information about the care transgender children receive in Ohio and around the world. My team can provide a point-by-point takedown of much of the evidence used to support this bill.
- This bill is causing extreme anxiety in transgender children and their families, who are rapidly making plans to move out of state. Transgender Teens are contemplating suicide. Transgender college students plan to move out of state. I can forward testimony.
- Young adults, especially Gen Z and later, are also planning to leave the state.
- *Status:* House Bill 68 has received sponsor and proponent testimony in the House Committee on Public Health Policy. We anticipate opponent testimony to be called soon.

Find more information here: <https://www.honestyforohioeducation.org/hb-68.html>

7. Other bills we are watching that will cement the power of GOP

SB 21 will allow the House Speaker, Senate President and Governor to hire private attorneys at taxpayer expense to fight constitutional challenges to Ohio laws and give them an automatic right to intervene in court cases for which they now have to petition the judge presiding over such cases.

SB 51 creates an Election Integrity Office within the Secretary of State’s office which will investigate all allegations of fraud, conduct hearings, issue subpoenas, without a requirement for bipartisan involvement or public hearings. Only one report to Ohio legislators is required every year in January, well after elections should be certified. This a “black” box stalling tactic with no guardrails.

SB 71 establishes a Data Analytics and Archive office in the Secretary of State's office to house voter and election data with no bipartisan oversight or requirements for what data can be released. Without assured and timely access to raw data, it can be spun in all manner of ways.

HB 117 Establishes the Salmon P. Chase Center for Civics, Culture, and Society at the Ohio State University, and the Institute of American Constitutional Thought and Leadership at the University of Toledo. These will be conservative government-controlled think tanks within our universities.

SB 1 is a takeover of Ohio education from the Ohio State Board of Education by the Ohio governor's office.

Conclusion

Taken together, we see a highly organized effort by Ohio conservatives to gain government control of Ohio's education system to promote nationalist views, suppress organized labor, and take away trans children's human rights. We believe this will harm Ohio's economy, the health and well-being of the LGBTQ community, and severely handicap Ohio's ability to grow our Aviation and Aerospace industries. This is doubly tragic, because as a group, transgender people are creative, resilient, flexible, self-aware, and have the necessary grit to meet any challenge.

Lastly, with the passage of SJR 2 by the Ohio House on May 10, against hundreds of organizations and individuals' loud and emphatic objections with little to no supporters of the resolution, it can be assumed that any action to stop these bills must be swift and united.

Thank you for this opportunity to brief you on these important issues.

Best,
Jeanne Ogden