

Testimony of Jill K. Clark, Ph.D., M.S.
Before the House Higher Education Committee
Rep. Tom Young, Chair
November 29, 2023

Chair Young, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Miller, and Members of the Higher Education Committee:

My name is Jill Clark, and I am an associate professor of Public Affairs at Ohio State University, where I have taught for thirteen years. I am also the Director of Undergraduate Studies for our college. I do not represent Ohio State University, but rather am submitting testimony as a private citizen in opposition to Senate Bill (SB) 83-11.

While there are many aspects of the substitute bill that lead me to oppose it, I will focus on just one. SB 83-11 poses unnecessary administrative and financial burdens on higher education given the provisions related to teaching evaluations. It is already common practice that educational units at universities have in place a process for evaluating teaching that is tailored to that unit, including peer review. Therefore, the unnecessary redundancy and micromanagement imposed by SB 83-11 will impose an administrative burden on universities, colleges, and individual units already accomplishing the task of teaching evaluation, while simultaneously requiring each of these levels of governance to incur a financial burden to create these additional administrative processes.

Finally, I am fortunate to chair our undergraduate curriculum committee, serving alongside students, faculty, and staff who are dedicated to our educational mission. I invite any Members of the Higher Education Committee to join me during our curricular meetings to see our effective and transparent process in action and to ask questions. Moreover, I would be happy to take any Members of the Higher Education Committee through the onboarding process I use for new students, faculty, and staff who are joining our curricular committee. Onboarding establishes the purpose of our curricular committee and introduces members to our process.

Again, the provisions related to teaching evaluations are but one of the reasons I strongly oppose SB 83-11. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.