

Chairman Cirino, Vice Chair Rulli, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee,

I understand the deadlines given on these testimonies but I also understand Chairman Cirino's declaration that late testimony will be admitted. As such I am submitting this testimony now. My name is Alexander Elkevizth. I am a student at Bowling Green State University and was born and raised in rural Ohio. I am strongly opposed to Senate Bill 83 and its companion bill in the Ohio House. I have taken many college courses in highschool and am now approaching the end of my first year at Bowling Green. I can assure this body that if this bill passes a majority of the classes which I have taken will no longer be available. From Art History to Contemporary German History, the topics banned by this bill are necessary discussions. If discussing opinions on subjects like gender or even foreign policy is made illegal then universities throughout the state will simply stop teaching these subjects to avoid the liability. This isn't a ban on indoctrination in education, it is a ban on education itself. Restricting the discussion of these subjects in the classroom is an infringement on our 1st amendment and will have devastating effects we cannot even fathom. While I could go on about this subject for quite some time I would like our focus to turn towards the ban on collective bargaining for our first responders and educators. This is such an egregious attack on our democracy and workers it is hard to believe it is even being considered. Heroes like our firefighters and police are under attack and this bill does nothing but hurt them. Educators also deserve the rights that any other worker has, especially considering the criminally low pay that many of them receive, such as graduate students who are teaching. I believe that Bowling Green State University, as well as a multitude of other higher education institutions, will be forever crippled by this bill and I believe my own education will be greatly stifled if I can no longer take the classes that will be banned, or heavily damaged, by this bill. I ask the committee to consider how art can be disI ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this breach of our democracy and right to education in this country.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.