Angela Kladias, School Psychology Student University of Dayton, Department of Counselor Education & Human Services

Jerry Cirino, Andrew Brenner, Terry Johnson, Rob McColley, Sandra O'Brien, Michele Reynolds, Kristina Roegner, Michael Rulli, and members of the Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Angela Kladias. I am a current second year school psychology graduate student at the University of Dayton. I am here to express my concerns with Senate Bill 83 in its entirety, but I would like to specifically emphasize the section that is posing to ban Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training and opportunities for faculty and students to engage in conversations surrounding diversity, race, gender, sexuality, faith, and more.

I am the current President of a student organization called the School Psychologists of the University of Dayton. Within that organization, we have a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion team, led by a classmate of mine. SB 83 would directly impact my experience as a school psychology graduate student as well as those experiences of my classmates and faculty members. If this bill is passed, my organization would lose a core aspect of its purpose, which is to educate ourselves and others about the experiences of diverse individuals that we encounter day-to-day. Students pursuing higher education in school psychology would not be equipped with the necessary skill sets and resources to be successful in their careers to help children and families.

Beyond the school psychology program, SB 83 would affect many communities with whom I work with. Individuals of color, LGBTQ+ communities, parents, students, educators across the state would be directly impacted due to the infringement that this bill poses on students at universities that wish to educate themselves on the experiences of diverse populations that may be different from their own. Students obtain an education to learn, not just about their specific major or course of study, but how to be a well-rounded individual who can interact with society and join organizations that allow them to explore real-world topics surrounding race, gender, sexuality, faith, and diversity.

In summary, I am testifying against the passing of Senate Bill 83. All individuals attending or working in higher education and the communities all across Ohio will be impacted by the passing of this bill. I ask that you please consider my testimony and vote no on SB 83. Thank you for your time.