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Opponent Testimony for Senate Bill 83
Senate Committee on Workforce and Higher Education
April 19, 2023

John Scholl
OSU Student

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Chair Cirino, Vice Chair Rulli, Ranking Member Ingram, and Members of the Workforce and Higher Education Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is John Scholl. I am a student at Ohio State University. I wish to state my concerns over SB 83. More specifically my concerns over the restriction when it comes to teaching "controversial matters", proposed prohibition of teaching concepts relating to advantages or disadvantages due to sex or race, and restricting academic relationships with Chinese institutions. I believe these proposed parts of SB 83 can fail to address issues of racism and xenophobia and therefore aids in ingraining such beliefs.

Restricting relationships with Chinese institutions will only limit the diversity of ideas on campuses which this bill supposedly aims to protect. What reason do we have to not work with such institutions? Barring working with institutions of any specific country only promotes xenophobia towards the people of such a country and a lack of understanding when we cannot work together.

Prohibiting the teaching of those being advantaged or disadvantaged based on sex or race denies teaching present-day discrimination. Also proposed is the required reading of Martin Luther King's *Letter from a Birmingham Jail*. How can such historical documents be read without understanding the disadvantages Black Americans like Martin Luther King faced and still face today?

By limiting teaching on race and sex we limit the progress our country has made toward eliminating discrimination of all kinds despite the bill's proposal to limit discrimination.

I ask that you please consider my testimony and vote no on SB 83 or at the least amend the bill to not restrict and eliminate the progress our society has made in eliminating racism. Only by learning about these topics can we work to overcome them. Restricting their teaching is only denying that these issues exist today.

Thank you.