

Chairperson Cirino and Senators:

I am a professor of theatre at Kent State University, School of Theatre and Dance. I am a member of AAUP-KSU. And I am the President of the KSU Asian, Asian American, Pacific Islander Faculty and Staff Alliance. Most importantly, I am the only daughter of a 93-year-old Japanese woman, who is living in Tokyo; She was born in 1929 and lived through the time of Japanese Imperialism that denied people's rights to know, study, and think differently from the authoritarian regime. I am the first generation of modern democratic Japan.

Since I landed in this country in 1987 as an international graduate student, I have gained so much knowledge and learned how to digest it critically and intellectually with compassion and empathy.

I came here with little knowledge of US history and world history. I knew only about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, and Lorraine Hansberry when it comes to the Civil Rights Movement.

Now, I teach Ceasar Chavez, Dolores Huerta, Toni Morrison, Maja Angelou, and Joy Harjo. Through plays and productions, I teach the Trail of Tears, the