

**Testimony of Mimi Plevin-Foust
Regarding SB83
Higher Education Enhancement Act
Workforce and Higher Education
Committee**

Chairman Cirino, Vice Chair Rulli, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee: Thank you for reading my testimony today.

My name is Mimi Plevin-Foust. My daughter is currently a student at Cuyahoga Community College; my husband has taught at Lakeland Community College for 20 years, and my Airbnb business often serves families of students at Case Western Reserve University and other nearby colleges. Everyone in my family will be harmed by Senate Bill 83. I strongly oppose it and its companion bill in the Ohio House.

When my daughter and I went looking at colleges when she was a high school senior, I was amazed by the number of excellent private and public colleges and universities in Ohio within a couple of hours' drive from our home. These schools generate billions of dollars for our state – whether from out-of-state tuitions, research dollars, state sports teams, alumni contributions, and the thousands of businesses that provide services to the schools, their staffs, students and families, of which my Airbnb business is just one small example.

Ohio colleges and universities are also all competing for an ever-smaller pool of students to attend them, especially since the pandemic, a problem my husband has seen as Lakeland Community College's enrollment has dropped.

I am deeply concerned that the multi-pronged, deeply unpopular, unnecessary, and unwanted changes that SB83 would impose on Ohio schools and teachers will totally undermine their ability to attract new students and retain professors, administrators, lecturers and staff. In fact, I wonder if this bill was secretly drafted by the higher education associations of Pennsylvania, Michigan, Indiana and Illinois because their colleges are the only ones that will benefit if SB83 is passed and we see Ohio students, top professors and research grants stream out of Ohio to teach and learn in our neighboring states where academic freedom is still respected.

SB83's effect on the thousands of businesses and countless small towns that serve and depend on Ohio's colleges and universities will also be catastrophic because they will have fewer and fewer people to serve, and it is likely that many Ohio colleges will have to close as students with means choose to study elsewhere.

Please don't sabotage Ohio's higher education industry with this misguided bill which aims to undo decades of hard-fought social progress in our country and will harm countless families like mine. Vote 'No' on SB83/HB151.