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**Ohio Workforce and Higher Education Committee
SB 83 Opposition Testimony
By
Ron Gay, Staff Representative Communications workers of America, District 4**

Chairman Cirino, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the House Higher Education Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony today on opposition to SB 83. My name is Ron Gay. I am a Staff Representative with the Communications Workers of America, District 4.

I am here to testify today on behalf of thousands of active and retired members across Ohio whom CWA represents. We are strongly opposed to SB 83 and its companion bill in the Ohio House.

This legislation is concerning in its far reaching, negative impact on the way Ohio's institutions of higher learning are managed, and how the students and employees of these institutions are impacted by the rules and regulations included in this bill.

The points of concern are wide ranging. This legislation will put Ohio at a disadvantage when attempting to recruit students, faculty, and other staff to live, learn, and work in Ohio's higher learning community. The numerous new mandates that are included are burdensome, unnecessary, and unfunded.

It also appears that the language of the bill limits the ability of leaders of institutions to deal with issues of hate speech and to educate employees on how to deal with the diverse world that we live in.

Additionally, the assault on labor rights is of grave concern. Ohio and its citizens have long been supportive of public sector collective bargaining rights, as was illustrated a decade ago when the Legislature enacted SB 5 over the will of a majority of Ohioans. Absent the ability to strike, the playing field is no longer level. This makes it much harder for working Ohioans to negotiate with Universities to ensure a fair contract that benefits the State, students, and campus workers is reached.

This legislation is not needed, period. I urge this committee to reject SB 83.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

*Ron Gay, CWA Staff Representative
Communications Workers of America*