

**For SB 83:**

Testimony of **Shana Klein, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Art History at Kent State University**  
Before the Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee  
Senator Jerry Cirino, Chair  
**May 15, 2023**

Chair Cirino, Vice Chair Rulli, Ranking Member Ingram, and Members of the Workforce and Higher Education Committee: My name is Shana Klein, and I am a professor of Art History at Kent State University, where I recently received tenure. I am submitting testimony as a private citizen in opposition to Senate Bill 83.

I am strongly opposed to this bill which is keeping me awake at night because I fear it threatens the education of my students and my ability to successfully perform my job as a tenured professor. In my classes, I address politically sensitive topics from slavery to the history of Indigenous removal in the United States and while these concepts are challenging to discuss, it is vital that students learn these topics so that we can discuss the United States's flaws and triumphs and feel free to express our opinions on U.S. history without fear of recourse or retaliation. The new bills and its amendments would weaken my freedom as a teacher and hamper my student's success.

I am also fearful of the new provisions that would mandate the distribution of my syllabi and assignments to the public because I would worry about my safety and how people might misconstrue what I am teaching and retaliate without ever stepping foot in my classroom and actually seeing how and what I teach.

In addition, I am very upset by the bill's provisions that would limit our union power, limit the power of a tenured professor--for which we work so long and hard for and for so little money to achieve this status--and the taking away of our right to strike. In my classes, I teach students about representations of the Boston Tea Party and how the exercise of striking and protesting is a democratic part of our American history. To take this right away is, frankly, un-American.

Thank you for considering my fears and concerns. This new bill which wrecks of an authoritarian government makes me worried about the limitations that would be placed upon my own freedoms as well as my students' freedoms.