CLOSED CAPTIONING

Click on **CC icon** to enable captioning
Every student deserves an honest, high-quality education grounded in truth, facts, and diverse perspectives.
Honesty Coalition

Cynthia Peeples
She/Her/Hers
Founding Director
Honesty for Ohio Education
We Are

Coalition
Nonpartisan, Statewide, Diverse Stakeholders

3 Pillars
Educate • Advocate • Build Community

3 Priorities
Statehouse • State Board of Ed • Schools

Resources
Info, Updates, News, Programs, Organizing
State of Education
Overview of Senate Bill 83
Student Impact
Writing & Presenting Testimony
Q&A
The State of Education
Yesterday…

**September 2020**
Chris Rufo on Fox News

**November 2020**
General Election, national referendum on MAGA agenda

**May 2021**
Ohio introduces 2 censorship bills

**December 2022**
20+ Ohio bills attacking public education

**April 2022**
Ohio introduces Don't Say Race/Gay bill

**Summer 2020**
National reckoning about racial & social injustice in wake of police murder of George Floyd

**September 2020**
Trump issues Executive Order on Combating Race and Sex Stereotyping ending federal funding of diversity training

**January 2021**
Nationally coordinated extremist attack on public education, democracy, repro healthcare, climate...

**April 2022**
Florida passes Don't Say Gay Bill

**June 2021**
Florida DOE bans Critical Race Theory
Today...
The Harm...
K-12 Culture War Bills
Education Week

K-12 Anti-CRT Bills
UCLA

Anti-LGBTQ+ Bills
ACLU

Hate and Extremist Groups
Southern Poverty Law Center
As of July 2023
- 40 bills introduced in 22 states
- 7 final legislative approval
- 7 signed into law
- 29 tabled or failed to pass
Threats in Ohio
STATEHOUSE

National extremist agenda imported into Ohio

GOAL:
- Disrupt & dismantle public education
- Create flight to privatized education
- Distract from REAL education issues
- Perpetuate othering, discrimination, hate

HOW:
- Grow extremist groups
- Weaponize race, identity, faith
- Villainize educators and staff
- Cast chilling effect on education
- Pass extremist legislation

Censorship & Curriculum
- SB 83/HB 151 - Higher ed censorship and worker rights
- SB 117 - Higher ed “Intellectual Diversity” centers
- HB 103 - Extremist Overhaul of K12 Social Studies
- SB 17 - Free market capitalism in financial literacy

Anti-LGBTQ+
- HB 6 - Trans athlete ban
- HB 8 - “Parent Bill of Rights”
- HB 68 - Gender-affirming healthcare ban
- HB 113 - Detrans Awareness Day
- HB 183 - Transgender Restroom Ban

Education Governance
- SB 1 & HB 12 - State takeover of public education

Education Funding / Private Schools
- HB 1 - State taxation bill, guts local govt & school funding
- SB 11 & HB 11 - Universal voucher programs

Educator Profession
- SB 14 - US veterans as unlicensed teachers
- HB 48 - Professional misconduct & indoctrination
Senate Bill 83
The Higher Education Destruction Act
The Higher Education *Destruction* Act
Bad for Students. Bad for Higher Education. Bad for Ohio.

**Sponsor:** Senator Jerry Cirino | Co-Sponsors: 10

**Introduced:** March 14, 2023

**Status:** Passed Senate on May 17, 2023
Referred to House Higher Education Committee

**Companion Bill:** House Bill 151 (Reps Steve Demetriou, Josh Williams)
SB 83 HEARING ALERT
OPPONENT & Proponent Testimony
Wednesday, November 15, 10am
House Higher Education Committee, Room 17
The Higher Education *Destruction* Act
Bad for Students. Bad for Higher Education. Bad for Ohio.

**Prohibitions & Threats**
- Restricts required DEI programs and training
- Bans race and gender based policies
- Restricts discussions and education about "controversial" topics, including climate change
- Bans public positions on “controversial” issues
- Bans academic relationships with China
- Restricts worker rights, including retrenchment

**Mandates**
- So-called "intellectual diversity"
- Requires US history and government courses with prescriptive content
- Requires online posting of course syllabi and bios
- State-defined commitment statements, policies, performance evaluations
- Bureaucratic reporting and discipline processes
The Higher Education Destruction Act
Ohio Senate Bill 83 & House Bill 151

BAD for Students. BAD for Higher Education. BAD for Ohio.

What does the Act do?

PROHIBITIONS & THREATS:
- Bans required DEI (diversity, equity, inclusion) training and programs
- Bans groups, clubs, orgs based on race, sex, sexuality, gender identity, possibly athletic teams and dorms
- Bans programs, policies, practices based on race, sex, sexuality, gender identity
- Restricts discussions about race, sex, sexuality, gender identity, "controversial" topics, including climate change
- Bans public statements and positions about "controversial" topics
- Bans academic relationships with China
- Bans employee strikes (faculty, staff, students)

HARM & IMPACT

- Attacks academic freedom, tenure, students' freedom to learn
- Weaponizes "intellectual diversity" to censor honest, inclusive education and critical thinking
- Dismisses race, culture, identity, lived experiences as "controversial beliefs and policies"
- Attacks workers' rights, creating unlivable working conditions and unsafe learning environments
- Leaves students unprepared for multicultural, global workplaces that prioritize DEI and critical thinking

MANDATES:
- Requires so-called "intellectual diversity" to force colorblind ideology on instruction, courses, departments, policies, admissions, hiring, tenure
- Requires online posting of course syllabi
- Requires US history or gov't course for graduation, taught with specific material
- Requires state-defined mission statements, policies, performance evaluations, reporting
- Requires post-tenure review and other discipline for violations

TAKE ACTION

STOP House Bill 151
STOP Senate Bill 83

Visit: HonestyForOhioEducation.org
Follow: @honesty4OhioEd on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn
Honesty Welcomes

Sara Kilpatrick
She/Her/Hers
Executive Director
Ohio Conference of the American Association of University Professors
SB 83

Concerns with ALL Versions of SB 83

- Chilling academic freedom
- Stifling honest education
- Attacking DEI initiatives
- Imposing one-size-fits-all mandates
- Union-busting
- Tenure-busting
Major Changes Since the Original Bill

- Removal of "segregation" language
- Removes references to "specified concepts/ideologies"
- Allows for mandatory DEI in certain situations
- Removes prohibition on union strikes
- Removes American government/history course from chancellor's purview
- Includes definition of "retrenchment"
What are the biggest **outstanding problems** with the bill?

- **Academic Freedom:** The bill still contains broad and confusing language about “intellectual diversity” and faculty maintaining a commitment to allow students to “reach their own conclusions” on “controversial beliefs or policies” discussed in the classroom.

- **Prohibited Bargaining Subjects:** The bill still would ban retrenchment, tenure, and evaluations as subjects for collective bargaining. These are some of the most fundamental aspects of the terms and conditions of faculty employment; so removing them as subjects for bargaining is a thinly-veiled form of union-busting.
What are the biggest **outstanding problems** with the bill?

- **Post-Tenure Review:** The language that grants broad authority for certain administrators to call for post-tenure review at any time would effectively end meaningful tenure in Ohio.
- **Faculty Evaluations:** Colleges and universities already have created and effectively implemented systems of faculty evaluations.
- **Public Posting of Syllabi and Instructor Information:** The requirements to post online the instructor’s course schedule, contact information, as well as a detailed calendar of course topics cannot possibly be well-intentioned.
- **DEI:** Still bans mandatory DEI with some exceptions.
What is **Retrenchment**?

Terminating academic programs and faculty positions, typically due to financial exigency.
How does SB 83 -11 define retrenchment?

"Retrenchment" means a process by which a state institution of higher education reduces programs or services, thus resulting in a temporary suspension or permanent separation of one or more institution faculty, to account for a reduction in student population or overall funding, a change to institutional missions or programs, or other fiscal pressures or emergencies facing the institution."
Why is the *retrenchment* definition problematic?

- While the bill allows institutions to adopt their own retrenchment policies, the bill also bans retrenchment as a topic for collective bargaining. It ignores processes that already have been adopted through collective bargaining agreements and/or shared governance procedures.
- This would lend itself not only to short-sighted decision-making and instability for students and faculty, but also to undue political influence in program and faculty termination decisions (as would the post-tenure review).
The Overarching Message on SB 83

- SB 83 is an unnecessary, big-government bill designed to dictate much of what institutions already have determined for themselves.
- Much of the bill was copied from right-wing think tank model legislation. It doesn't solve Ohio problems.
- It would have the opposite impact of "more speech" on campus. It will stifle honest conversations.
- It will hurt Ohio's ability to attract excellent students and faculty. This will hurt Ohio's economy.

**SB 83 is bad for students, bad for higher education, and bad for Ohio!**
Honesty Welcomes

Maria Vitoria de Rezende Grisi
PhD Student
The Ohio State University
Honesty Welcomes

Rachel Coyle
She/Her/Hers
Founder
How Things Work at the Statehouse
How Things Work at the Ohio Statehouse

Presented by Rachel Coyle

SB 83 TESTIMONY EDITION
REMEMBER:

• You have SO MUCH POWER at the Statehouse level.
  • Why? Because hardly anyone contacts their state legislators.

• It DOES NOT take very many people to make noise at the Statehouse.
  • Use this power. If you don’t, someone else will.
WHAT WE’LL COVER TODAY:

● How to follow SB 83
● How to submit testimony
● Testimony Tips
● Committee Rules
● Other key ways to oppose SB 83
● Questions?
Following SB 83 — Current Status

• Passed the Ohio Senate in May 2023

• Now receiving hearings in the House Higher Education Committee

• If it passes House committee, it will then need a vote from the FULL Ohio House.

• Then it would need a concurrence (yes or no) vote from the Senate.

• Then it would go to Gov DeWine for his signature.
Following SB 83 — Committee Hearings

• After a bill is assigned to a committee, it (usually) starts to receive hearings.

  • SB 83 House committee hearings (so far):
    • 1st hearing — Sponsor testimony
    • 2nd hearing — proponent (supporter) and opponent testimony
    • Next hearing….Interested Party testimony and a vote? TBD
Following SB 83 — Committee Notices

How to find out when bills you care about are receiving hearings:

• CONTACT committee chairs.
• Ask to be placed on their “committee notice list.”
Legislature.Ohio.gov
House Standing Committees

- Agriculture and Conservation
- Armed Services and Veterans Affairs
- Behavioral Health and Recovery Supports
- Civil Justice
- Commerce and Labor
- Criminal Justice
Higher Education Committee

Members

- Tom Young
  District 57 | R
  Chair

- Gayle Manning
  District 59 | R
  Vice Chair

- Joseph A. Miller, III
  District 53 | D
  Ranking Member

- Munira Abdullahi
  District 9 | D

- Adam C. Bird
  District 66 | R

- Bill Dean
  District 71 | R

- Mary Lightbody
  District 4 | D

- Derek Merrin
  District 42 | R

- Gail K. Pavliga
  District 72 | R

- Justin Pizzulli
  District 90 | R

- Phillip M. Robinson, Jr.
  District 19 | D

- Nick Santucci
  District 64 | R
Rep37@OhioHouse.gov

House District 37

Working For You

Young Supports Historic Aviation, Aerospace Project Coming to Ohio
COLUMBUS – State Representative Tom Young (R-Washington Twp.) recently participated in the announcement of Joby Aviation’s $477 million investment at Dayton International Airport for the construction of a manufacturing facility for their electric vertical takeoff and landing aircraft.

Read Full Story
Fri, Sep 23, 2023

Young Supports State Operating Budget
COLUMBUS – State Representative Tom Young (R-Washington Twp.) voted to support the Ohio House state operating budget and the bill passed during session Wednesday. The legislation provides billions in funding over the next two fiscal years to grow the economy and workforce, protect Ohio families and most vulnerable, and invest in educating our communities.

Read Full Story
Thu, Apr 27, 2023

Young, Demetriou Introduce Bill to Exclude CBDC as Money
COLUMBUS – State Representatives Tom Young (R-Washington Twp.) and Steve Demetriou (R-Rainbridge Twp.) have introduced legislation that will not recognize central bank digital currency as money in Ohio.

Read Full Story
Thu, Apr 27, 2023

Contact Info

→

Rep37@OhioHouse.gov

Tom Young
District 37
R

“I am honored to be able to apply the experience and leadership I have gained in the private and public sectors to help build a better future for the citizens of Ohio.”

Newsletter
Sign Up

Hometown
Washington Township

77 South High Street
River Rd.
Columbus, OH 43215
Phone: (614) 666-6504

Home
News
In The News
Photos
Biography
Newsletters
Legislation
Committees
Contact
TESTIFYING IN COMMITTEE

• Come testify against SB 83!
  • GOAL: Testify in person.

• Please TRY TO present your testimony in person whenever possible. BUT....
  • Can’t testify in person? You can also submit written-only testimony.
HOW TO SUBMIT TESTIMONY
(IN-PERSON OR WRITTEN-ONLY!):

STEP 1: Write your testimony.

STEP 2: Email your (written or in-person) testimony to the Committee Chair. 24 hours in advance.

STEP 3: Email a completed “Witness Slip” form along with your testimony.
• If you’re submitting written-only testimony, that’s it. You’re done!
• If you’re testifying in person, all that’s left is to show up!
WHAT MAKES GOOD TESTIMONY

• Short and sweet!!
  • If there’s a lot of testimony, you’ll likely be limited to 2-3 minutes. Make them count.

• Consider your audience
  • Think of your most conservative relative. That’s your audience.
TESTIMONY TEMPLATE:

Chairman/woman ________, Vice Chair ________, Ranking Member ________, and members of the ________ Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is ________. I am [basic bio about who you are]. I am strongly opposed to (or I strongly support) [Bill Number].

[Then tell them why! Make it short and sweet - a few paragraphs is perfect. Tell a personal story. Or explain why your job experience gives you this perspective on the bill. Maybe cite some statistics or case studies to back up your claims]

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote [NO/YES] on this [harmful/dangerous/important/life-saving/etc.] bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify. I will now take any questions you may have.

AFTER YOU ARE FINISHED SPEAKING:

Legislators may ask you questions.

- They are more likely to ask questions if you provide data/statistics or present yourself as having professional experience related to the bill. This can be awesome! But be prepared to back up your testimony!
Find previous testimonies: Legislature.Ohio.gov
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Sponsor(s)</th>
<th>Version</th>
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<tr>
<td>S. B. No. 83</td>
<td>Enact Ohio Higher Education Enhancement Act</td>
<td>Cirino</td>
<td>As Passed by the Senate</td>
</tr>
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Bill pages look like:

**Senate Bill 83**

*Primary Sponsors*

Photo of Jerry C. Cirino

**Enact Ohio Higher Education Enhancement Act**

[Show Long Title]

**Current Version**

As Passed by the Senate [PDF]

- Introduced in Senate
- In Senate Committee
- Reported by Committee
- Passed by Senate
- In House Committee
- Reported by Committee
- Passed by House
- Sent to the Governor
Find previous testimonies under the “Committee Activity” tab!

### Senate Committees

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<th>Committee</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Bill Text</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Workforce and Higher Education</td>
<td>March 22, 2023</td>
<td>1st Hearing</td>
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<td>Workforce and Higher Education</td>
<td>March 29, 2023</td>
<td>2nd Hearing</td>
<td>Download</td>
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### Cosponsors

- **S E N A T O R S**
  - Andrew O. Brenner
  - Frank Hoagland
  - Terry Johnson
  - George F. Lang

- **Representatives**
  - Dr. Michael B. Poliakoff, Ph.D.
  - Richard Vedder
  - George Dent
  - Peter Wood

<table>
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<th>Witness</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Testifying As</th>
<th>Document</th>
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<tr>
<td>Senator Jerry Cirino</td>
<td>Ohio Senate</td>
<td>Sponsor</td>
<td>Download</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Hal Arkes**
- **Citizen of Ohio**
  - **Proponent**
- **Dr. Michael B. Poliakoff, Ph.D.**
- **The American Council of Trustees and Alumni**
  - **Proponent**
- **Richard Vedder**
- **Citizen of Ohio**
  - **Proponent**
- **George Dent**
- **National Association of Scholars**
  - **Proponent**
- **Peter Wood**
- **National Association of Scholars**
  - **Proponent**
COMMITTEE RULES

It’s fine to have your phone out.

- Texting is ok
- Tweeting is ok
- Facebook posts are ok

Photos are SOMETIMES ok….

- But sometimes the Chair will announce no photos.

You cannot record video or audio without permission.

There could be multiple bills receiving hearings in the committee. Listen for your bill number to be called.

- Then the chair will begin calling witnesses up by name to testify
- The committee chair has a list of people who submitted testimony 24 hours in advance
After you finish testifying....

The committee members can ask you questions.

For each question, start your response with “Through the Chair, to the Representative....”
Troubling trends....

• We’ve started seeing new rules recently....
  • Invite-only testimony
  • Limited number of testimonies accepted.

• It will take public pressure to stop these new rules from becoming the norm.
  • Post all over social media!
  • Make sure the press knows! Ask them to write a story.
  • Protest in the halls of the Statehouse

• Eventually, committee chairs will realize it’s much easier to just let everyone testify.
Hearing on Ohio bill to limit protest ends in — what else? — protest
Contact key legislators — Phone

Tell these legislators why SB 83 is bad for students, bad for workers, and bad for Ohio:

- **Rep Justin Pizzulli**: 614-466-2124
- **Rep Gail Pavliga**: 614-466-2004
- **Rep Gayle Manning**: 614-644-5076
- **Rep Nick Santucci**: 614-466-5441
- **House Speaker Stephens**: 614-466-1366
Contact key legislators — Email

Tell these legislators why SB 83 is bad for students, bad for workers, and bad for Ohio:

- **Rep Justin Pizzulli**: Rep90@OhioHouse.gov
- **Rep Gail Pavliga**: Rep72@OhioHouse.gov
- **Rep Gayle Manning**: Rep52@OhioHouse.gov
- **Rep Nick Santucci**: Rep64@OhioHouse.gov
- **House Speaker Stephens**: Rep93@OhioHouse.gov
Contact key legislators — Social Media

Tell these legislators why SB 83 is bad for students, bad for workers, and bad for Ohio:

- **Rep Manning**: @GayleManningOH
- **Rep Santucci**: @NickSSantucci
- **House Speaker Stephens**: @jasoncstephens
Follow Honesty For Ohio Education!

HonestyForOhioEducation.org → Join Mailing List

Facebook: Honesty For Ohio Education

Twitter/X and Instagram: @Honesty4OhioEd
LIVE BROADCASTS OF COMMITTEE HEARINGS

• You can watch all House and Senate Sessions AND all committee hearings live on OhioChannel.org – it’s free!

• The videos are also archived on the site!

• This is a massive win for Statehouse Democrats.
Questions?
What can YOU do?
Resources

Honesty for Ohio Education
- Mailing List HERE
- Legislation Tracker HERE | Flyer HERE
- Website HERE
- Social Media: FB • Instagram • Twitter

State of Education
- Track Actions Across US K-12 | CRT | HE
- Roots of Critical Race Theory Campaign HERE
- Executive Order on Combating Race and Sex Stereotyping HERE

Statehouse
- Honesty Legislation Tracker HERE
- Ohio Legislature Site HERE

State Board of Education
- Each Child Our Future Strategic Plan HERE
- Whole Child Framework HERE
- Education Resources HERE
- Anti-LGBTQ+ Resolution HERE
- Anti-Racism and Equity Resolution HERE
- Gerrymandering SBOE Districts HERE

Local Schools
- 2022 KIDS COUNT Data Book HERE
- 2022 KIDS COUNT Ohio Data Profile HERE
- Finding Unity and Common Ground HERE
- ACLU Ohio Student Rights Handbook HERE
Thank You