



OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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*The OEA will lead the way for continuous improvement of public education while advocating for members and the learners they serve.*

May 17, 2023

The Honorable Matt Huffman  
Ohio Senate  
1 Capitol Square, 2<sup>nd</sup> Flr., Rm. 201  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear President Huffman:

On behalf of the 120,000 members of the Ohio Education Association, including 1,400 who work at Ohio's colleges and universities, this letter is to express OEA's opposition to Senate Bill 83 which proposes to make extensive changes to practices and policies at Ohio's higher education institutions.

Senate Bill 83 proposes to micromanage state institutions of higher education by usurping the authority of boards of trustees and administrators who oversee the daily operations of these institutions by requiring changes to mission statements, faculty workload policies, and syllabi requirements. It also proposes state-mandated performance reviews and evaluation requirements. **This bill also represents the largest attack on collective bargaining rights since Senate Bill 5 in 2011.**

The above-mentioned provisions take away institutional flexibility to meet the needs of students enrolled in various education programs in favor of government interference and one-size-fits-all state mandates. OEA believes that these topics are best addressed at the local level with institutions determining systems that work for their students and campuses.

These overreaching mandates could have a chilling effect on attracting students to Ohio. Additionally, the bill would undermine academic freedom, silence the voices of university employees, drive wedges of distrust between students and faculty, and impose burdensome government mandates on Ohio's colleges and universities. To grow our economy and keep our system of higher education strong, Ohio must do all it can to attract and retain qualified and committed faculty in all academic disciplines. Senate Bill 83 would instead send an unmistakable message to talented individuals looking to advance their education and careers: go somewhere else.

I urge a "no" vote on Senate Bill 83 as it will cause irreparable harm to higher education students, colleges and universities, and Ohio's workforce and economy. Given the importance of this issue, this will be a scorecard vote for OEA.

Sincerely,

Scott DiMauro  
OEA President

CC: Members of the Ohio Senate

