

RESOLUTION NO. 59 -2023

**EXPRESSING** Council's condemnation of Ohio Senate Bill 83 and Ohio House Bill 151 and the harmful impact they would have on higher education in Ohio.

WHEREAS, teachers, educators, and students in Cincinnati deserve to have an environment that promotes multiculturalism and independent thinking in order to support the academic excellence of our regional higher education institutions; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cincinnati recognizes the importance of collective bargaining, which includes the right to strike by unions at higher education institutions, and recognizes that historically faculty unions have had the right to negotiate the terms and conditions of tenure, annual performance reviews, and retrenchment; and

WHEREAS, the colleges and universities within Cincinnati should continue to have the ability to determine the need and variety of diversity, equity, and inclusion programs as determined by their respective boards of trustees and without legislative interference; and

WHEREAS, university and college professors and educators must be supported and allowed to have the academic freedom to express opinions and conduct research that may favor or condemn controversial views in the pursuit of knowledge and truth; and

WHEREAS, universities and colleges within Cincinnati should be allowed to abstain from state-imposed mandates in Ohio Senate Bill 83 and Ohio House Bill 151 that create great and unnecessary administrative costs; and

WHEREAS, universities and colleges should be supported in their effort to encourage civic engagement through training and education, and should be allowed to make independent determinations regarding public policy issues; and

WHEREAS, Ohio Senate Bill 83 and Ohio House Bill 151, if passed, would be extremely harmful to higher education institutions in Ohio, their students and employees, and Ohio residents, and would inhibit higher education institutions from providing important and necessary training and education and fostering of academic freedom, creativity, and independent thought, free from political influence; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That the Mayor and this Council support the independence of Ohio's colleges and universities from political interference in academic affairs.

Section 2. That the Mayor and this Council support the importance of multicultural, diversity, equity, and inclusion programs so that Ohio's higher education maintains its integrity and rigor.

Section 3. That the Mayor and this Council support collective bargaining as it currently exists in Ohio for college and university employees.

Section 4. That the Mayor and this Council strongly oppose and condemn Ohio Senate Bill 83 and Ohio House Bill 151 and their potential harmful impacts on higher education and residents of Ohio.

Section 5. That a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council.

Passed: June 24, 2023

Attest: [Signature]  
Clerk

[Signature]  
Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Submitted by Vice Mayor Kearney