



December 2, 2015

President Michael V. Drake
The Ohio State University
205 Bricker Hall
190 North Oval Mall
Columbus, OH 43210-1357

Dean Alan Michaels
The Ohio State University
Michael E. Moritz College of Law
55 West 12th Avenue
Columbus, OH 43210-1391

Dear President Drake and Dean Michaels,

The purpose of this letter is twofold: To express disappointment at The Ohio State University's management of threats made to a second-year law student, Madison Gesiotto; and to respectfully request a meeting between you, Ohio Right to Life, and Ms. Gesiotto to ensure her safety and the protection of First Amendment rights on campus.

It recently came to the attention of Ohio Right to Life that Ms. Gesiotto became a target of threats due to a column she wrote for *The Washington Times*. When Ms. Gesiotto brought these threats to the attention of Dean Michaels, she was alarmed to find that the content of her article rather than the threat made against her was the subject of the administration's concern.

According to Ms. Gesiotto, Dean Michaels and two other deans met with her not to discuss the threat made against her, but to address the following:

- To critique the content of her article on the disparity in abortions among African Americans;
- To recommend she remove from her online biography her position as a staff editor of the Ohio State Journal of Criminal Law; and
- To urge Ms. Gesiotto to participate in a "facilitated discussion" with those opposing her work.

Ohio Right to Life finds it gravely concerning that your administration's response to a threat made to your student is to chastise her instead of her peers. In a statement made to *The Washington Times*, Dean Michaels said,

"An inclusive learning environment that provides a forum for a wide range of viewpoints is crucial for a law school. We try to foster a culture of respectful dialogue when addressing tough, emotional topics as they arise in discussions of law and policy."

Ohio Right to Life agrees that an inclusive learning environment that provides for a wide range of viewpoints is crucial. Yet since Ms. Gesiotto expressed a different viewpoint, she has faced tremendous exclusion by both her peers and your administration. It is a peer who sought to exclude Ms. Gesiotto by threatening her. It was the administration who sought to exclude her by recommending that she exclude her affiliation with her law school and reconsider her opinion. Nowhere in this whole scenario has Ms. Gesiotto sought to exclude anyone. Nowhere has she threatened anyone. Yet she has been the subject of threats and criticism, on campus and online.

In pursuit of the dialogue you seek to foster on campus, Ohio Right to Life respectfully asks to meet with both you and Ms. Gesiotto. Ms. Gesiotto has faced immense isolation and hostility since she wrote her opinion. I believe that we can find a sustainable solution to Ms. Gesiotto's concerns that will ensure the safety of every student on your campus, regardless of their beliefs.

To arrange a date for a meeting, please contact me by phone at 614.547.0099 ext. 301.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Gonidakis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Michael Gonidakis
President