



GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT
AND REFORM
COMMITTEE

Witness Form

Today's Date Dec. 6, 2016

Name: Bonnie Awan

Address: 4545 Wuertz Ct.
Dublin, OH 43016

Telephone: 614-726-9178

Organization Representing: MOPAC

Testifying on Bill Number: 476

Testimony: Verbal Written Both

Testifying As: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Are you a Registered Lobbyist? Yes No

Special Requests: _____

Testimony in Opposition to Ohio HB 476
Ohio Senate
Government Oversight and Reform Committee
December 6, 2016

My name is Bonnie Awan, and I reside in the Columbus area. I am a native Ohioan, born in Salem and raised, ironically, in the small northeastern town of East Palestine. I am testifying in opposition to HB 476.

I will keep my remarks fairly simple and brief, because I'm sure everyone here is aware of the basics of HB 476 and the ramifications if such a bill is allowed to pass.

Like many who grew up in small rural towns, I was naively taught to believe in the greatness of our democracy and the fairness of our U.S. Constitution, and that my country was a beacon of justice and equality. Then I went off to college and learned that although our country has a fairly good foundation in the form of our Constitution from which to build, governing bodies can be manipulated by special interest groups and political contributions to the point where they can distort the fundamental principles of our Constitution and laws to suit specific agendas which sometimes infringe on the rights of our citizens; and in so doing may deny others their God given human rights.

HB 476 is about suppressing and punishing behavior of its citizens that is protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, the right to engage in non-violent protest against a government subjecting people to unfair and harmful rulings.

HB 476 is neither aligned with the fundamental principles of the Abrahamic faiths (Judaism, Christianity and Islam) nor the fundamental principles of the United States.

HB 476, which some have dubbed the "Defense of Ethnic Cleansing Act", is flagrantly unconstitutional, and should be offensive to anyone who identifies themselves as an American and a person of faith.

As government officials elected to serve and protect the rights and liberties of the people of Ohio, my request is that you oppose and defeat HB 476.

Thank you for your time and consideration.