

Last Monday was like any other Monday-- except that my older son's school district was closed for President Trump's visit to a local business in Blue Ash, OH. So I did what many other self-respecting non-partisan members of a local group would do: I went out to talk to both sides. I dropped my 8 year-old son Sam off at a play date, my 4 year-old daughter Sophie off at pre-school & my 1 year-old son Sid at Kidz Watch. Sid has very rarely been to paid child care: I could count the number of times something was important enough to do this on my fingers. Luckily the place I was heading was < 3 miles from home. Unluckily, the predicted high outdoors was 28 degrees.

I parked east of Sheffer Corporation & walked along Cornell Road up towards the police & community activists. I had my sign with me, declaring a proposed 28th Amendment to the US Constitution. I began talking to people & handing out materials. After a few minutes I met up with the 3 other people who had arrived from our group: Greater Cincinnati Move to Amend. Then quite literally I said something that gave everyone around us a bit of a pause.

I asked my friend Rob if he would escort me across the street. He looked at me & asked how long I had been there, because only a few minutes prior someone from the other side had crossed over & people were surprised that it had not ended in violence. I said, "It's ok. I've never gotten hit. We're non-partisan. We need to talk to both sides." So we crossed to the other side.

Now I do not consider myself a brave person and perhaps my choices might not be the ones that someone with better street smarts would choose. But I'd like to think that I have a warm heart & a big smile. I feel that people can tell when you are being genuine.

So one of the first questions we were asked was, "weren't you just on the other side?" I said, "Yes, we're non-partisan, & half of our group is

on this side & half of our group is on that side." People checked out our signs, talked with us & took cards. We invited them to have our group speak to any organizations they belong to. We encouraged them to go on-line to sign our petition. I asked one woman what her banner said, because I could not see it from behind. She said, "Make America Kind Again!" And we both shared big smiles because we agreed.

So I am here today asking you to stand up for the people of Ohio by recognizing something even my 8 year-old knows: corporations are not people, so they should not have the same rights as people. Please also consider that \$ isn't free speech. I've read in a book from 2015, that 158 families have contributed over 50% of the funds to finance presidential primaries. Do you think a system that allows this will lead to representational democracy, where 1 person gets 1 vote? Do you want large donors to be able to tell you how to vote because if you don't do so, their impact to fundraising campaigns will be so critical that you will feel as if they control you & you no longer have the choice to serve at the will of the people? What will you tell your children & grandchildren if they ask, "Do you represent big money, or do you represent the people?"

Please change the game & support HR 74. Undo the effects that came about as a result of Citizens United. A vote for HR 74 is a vote for the people, because it is, "We the people of the United States of America," that is written in our US Constitution. It was never meant to be a government, "by the corporate elite." Please do what I did & talk to someone on the other side from you. I bet they would agree, because polls show that about 80% of people across all political spectrums in the US already agree, in getting big \$ out of politics.

Thank you for your consideration. I am glad to have shared some time & thoughts with you today. I hope you will help us legalize democracy again with Move to Amend.