

Date: January 27, 2020
Re: Senate Bill 33

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my opposition to SB 33. I believe this bill would impose extreme and unnecessary penalties on individual citizens and citizens' organizations for conduct that already is adequately penalized in the law. It would severely restrict and stifle freedom of speech and non-violent protest. Such freedom must be respected and protected; otherwise this country would not be a democratic republic. This bill conflicts with American political values. It is morally as well as legally unjustifiable.

The provisions stated in lines 26-38 of the bill are especially objectionable. These provisions would make it impossible for citizens who are not independently wealthy to exercise their current legal rights of speech and expression. These provisions would also prevent groups of citizens who merely want to use their own personal resources (whether they are wealthy or not) to support each other's rights of speech and expression by financially enabling each other to defend their own rights in courts of law.

Trespass is already covered by Ohio law. This bill is unnecessary. And its penalties are excessive and unreasonable. No such bill should become law in this country.

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