

Comment concerning SB 33

Chairman Eklund, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Thomas and the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I appreciate the opportunity to express my opinion concerning the pending legislation, SB 33. I request that the Committee not pass the legislation out of Committee.

I am an Ohio citizen. I value the rights that I have under the Ohio and U.S. Constitutions. They include the Right to Assemble and the Freedom of Speech. The Ohio Constitution states in Article I §3:

The people have the right to assemble together, in a peaceable manner, to consult for the common good; to instruct their Representatives; and to petition the General Assembly for the redress of grievances.

Further Article I §11 states:

Every citizen may freely speak, write, and publish his sentiments on all subjects, being responsible for the abuse of the right; and no law shall be passed to restrain or abridge the liberty of speech, or of the press.

The drafters of the Ohio Constitution found the rights to assemble and freedom of speech to be so important that they put those rights and the other important rights of the Bill of Rights in the first Article of the Ohio Constitution.

The Ohio Constitution prohibits even legislation that has a chilling effect on the Right to Assemble and Freedom of Speech. If SB 33 is enacted it will have a chilling effect on those rights. I request the Committee not vote SB 33 out of Committee.

Thank you for listening.

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