

Dear Chairperson LeRd, Vice Chair Swearingen, Ranking Member Leland and Committee Members,

Thank you for receiving my written testimony in opposition to HB 22. I would have preferred to testify in person, but my doctor says I can not yet risk exposure to the COVID-19 virus. So I thank you for this opportunity to write.

A key right under our democracy is the First Amendment right to free speech and the right to petition our government to hear the people's grievances. HB 22 is so broadly written that it threatens to limit or discourage the exercise of First Amendments rights. PLEASE DO NOT PASS HB 22.

Under HB 22 you can pick up a felony charge just by distracting a police officer during peaceful public witness. Obstruction of justice is defined so broadly under the law that it can be applied to someone for merely throwing confetti or flowers. Any laws pertaining to protest should protect US, the American people, instead of penalize our First Amendment actions. Do NOT let SB 22 pass!

Thank you!
Robert Quartell