

My name is Joanie Calem and I am a resident of Columbus OH. The language of this bill concerns me greatly as a citizen of this state and this country. The right to peaceful protest is one of the most sanctified aspects of the American democracy and protected by the first amendment to the US constitution. The founding fathers implemented this amendment in order to make sure that the democracy of the United States did not slip into the tyranny of a monarchy that they had left behind in Great Britain, where people were not allowed to rally against the decisions of the monarch. Democracy works when people are allowed to express their opinions and have a say in the governing of their community. One way to do this is by free and open elections. Another way

to do this is by the freedom to rally peacefully against wrongdoing by any system of power. We all know that as humans, our politicians often abuse their power, and people need the ability to push back against an abuse of power that will harm their families and their community. Establishing laws that limit free speech and the right to assemble and rally peacefully is an abuse of that power, which any lover of democracy knows to be careful of.