

I am a business owner providing services to individuals seeking employment and small businesses needing assistance with their social media presence. I provide these services without regard to the race, religion, and/or ethnic origin of any potential client. As a member of two faith communities (First Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbus & Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Upper Arlington) my beliefs require me to speak on behalf of those people who have been persecuted historically and/or currently for their identity, beliefs, or social status. I do this both privately by writing letters to officials who have the power to change policies that injure people in body, mind, and spirit, and publicly protesting unjust policies with other like-minded individuals.

I have been protesting against various forms of injustice since my college years (Note: I graduated from The Ohio State University with my B.A. in 1969.) I protested against the Vietnam War. As

a graduate student at Ohio State I continued to protest against sexism which was rampant in my department, and against discrimination against the GLBTQ community. As the parent of a Columbus City Schools student, I protested the closing of schools that adversely affected minority students in the district. More recently I have participated in protests against attempts to prevent women from exercising control over their bodies and against the ongoing police violence against Blacks and other minorities. In all of these years of protests, I have rarely if ever have seen anyone participating in the protest commit any form of violence. Most of the violence I have witnessed is on the part of law enforcement overstepping their bounds because they don't agree with the protesters. These bills give free reign to police violence against non-violent protesters.

Investigations of demonstrations that have resulted in property damage show that these acts are committed by a very small number of individuals who generally are indifferent to the cause that people are demonstrating for.

These bills are a direct threat to the First Amendment rights of every American. I support the right of those who hold opposite views from mine to also peacefully protest and make their views known to those who create laws and policy. Our country is stronger because we have the ability to speak out and create change.