

How can you in good conscious pass this legislation? I say you cannot when you have been elected to uphold the rights of your fellow citizens. I have a right to use my voice in peaceable protest to stand up for myself and others. Under HB 22 I can be given a felony charge just for what might be seen as distracting a police officer during peaceful public witness. Obstruction of justice is defined so broadly under this proposed legislation that it can be applied to someone for distractions that may be entirely unintentional. My concern is that this will threaten, for all of us, our rights to use our voices to dissent and to stand up for marginalized and undeserved peoples and interests, which are core to a healthy democracy.

Ohioans have already been harmed by police during peaceful protest events. Any laws pertaining to protest and civic gatherings should be made to protect me and my neighbors, and should protect American people in Ohio instead of penalizing our First Amendment actions.

Please, represent me and other members of our community. Do NOT let SB 22 pass!

Sincerely,  
Michele Berry

Montgomery County Voter, and a caring parent and neighbor