

As a United States Army Veteran, I swore an oath to the constitution September 2006. I just graduated HighSchool and I was off to serve my country. My first Sergeant at Fort Lee, VA gave every soldier a paper copy of theconstitution. I was amazed at how short of a read it was but it's shortness compelled us to read it, memorize it, and prepare to defend it against enemies foreign and domestic. After leaving the Army in June 2011, I enrolled incollege to obtain both my bachelor's and Master's degrees. While in college I learned a lot about current eventsprecipitated from issues originating from our nation's past. Particularly, racism, and how the 1st amendment was a tool to allow folks to express their grievances against a racist government, the United States of America. To my dismay, I began to see states like Tennessee pass laws that worked to block folks freedom of speech andright to assemble. Painting protestors as enemies of the state and passing bills "Conserving the Property of theState." H.B. 22 falls directly in-line with this tradition to stop or eliminate the 1st amendment. Penalizing folksexercising their first amendment right is not what my battle buddies died for when they signed up to fight for thiscountry. Throw this bill into the trash of human history and never to be resurrected because it threatens the veryliberties our Oath swore to protect and defend.