

I am making a testimony on HB 22 because I think it is dangerous legislation that will further police violence against minorities with its nebulous definitions of what is “threatening” to a police officer. Fear of people is prejudice for people. According to statistics done by the ASD two thirds of all nations in the world right now are living in either failed or failing democracies. Let’s not join them, especially considering our democracy is what we’re famous for and which defines America, and one of the hallmarks of democracy, which is really democracy in action, is protest. Democracy is by the will of the people, and anything that suppresses the will of the people suppresses democracy. Boris Johnson in the UK is also trying to sign an anti peaceful protest bill, and this is disturbing to me especially considering what happened with the Sarah Everard vigil, a peaceful and responsibly socially distanced vigil which the police department, one of which was her murderer, suppressed and corralled until it was no longer socially distanced. I think this bill, as nebulous as China’s National Security Law which is used solely to suppress dissidents under the thin guise of so called terrorism, and if we give police this much power to subvert the people’s will in action our police force will be as bad as SARS or of members of the military coup who killed thirty eight protesters in one day in Myanmar. Police brutality is becoming a global problem. This is the mechanism in which two thirds of our world is living in either failed or failing democracies. This is a slippery slope that leads only to the end of democracy.

Thank you,
Lauren Wantz.