

TESTIMONY TO OHIO LEGISLATURE – DEFEAT HB22

Hello, I am a retired mail carrier, a grandfather, a community activist and an ally to oppressed people and communities.

I am in strong opposition to Ohio's pending House Bill 22. Our system of government invites The People to resist injustice or corruption initiated or supported by our government officials wherever, and whenever, it arises. Therefore 'freedom of assembly' and 'freedom of speech' are so important and that these activities are protected in the very First Amendment of the US Constitution.

I ask you to defeat HB 22 because this bill is more about denying First Amendment rights than securing public safety. The provisions are excessive and chilling on our First Amendment freedoms. As a government of, for, and by The People, I submit to you that this bill is of, for, and by the State and corporations, not The People.

Under HB 22 a person can pick up a felony charge just by distracting a police officer during peaceful public witness. Obstruction of justice is defined so broadly under the law that it can be applied to someone for merely throwing confetti or flowers. Over the past year Ohioans have already been brutalized by police during peaceful protest events. Any laws pertaining to protest should protect US, the American people, instead of penalizing our First Amendment actions. Do NOT let HB 22 pass!