

# Euclid Democratic Club



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Chairman LaRe, Vice Chair Swearingen and Ranking Member Lealand,

This is written testimony against House Bill 22. It is possible that you are so fully consumed by your duties to your constituent that you are unaware of what took place in Minneapolis, Minnesota on May 25, 2020. A man named George Floyd's life was wrongly taken in the streets by Officer Derrek Chauvin, an on duty police officer. Possibly, you are also unaware of the murder trial that is currently underway for Officer Chauvin. If this is the case, I recommend you Google those names and educate yourselves on what happened.

The people surrounding Officer Chauvin, as he kneeled on Mr. Floyd's neck for over 9 minutes, recorded the entire event. Members of this crowd yelled for his pulse to be taken and warned the kneeling Officer Chauvin of the life being taken from George Floyd's body. In the case of George Floyd, the recording of events, the warnings from the crowd, tragically did not change his fate. Without the recording of Mr. Floyd's death, a murder charge would have been unlikely.

It happened in Minnesota and, God forbid, may happen again at any time. It may happen in Ohio, it may happen while you are in office. House Bill 22 would take the power of the bystanders away, leaving no record of a murder like George Floyd's. Under House Bill 22, the citizens in the area would have faced possible prosecution for recording the life being taken from George Floyd's body. They could have faced criminal charges for shouting and gathering around as this tragedy took place. That would be an injustice and a tragedy in its own right.

Now, there is a constant cry from Republicans in Washington DC, there are accusations of a "power grab" by the current administration. This is exactly what is taking place in Republican led statehouses all over the country. The hypocrisy is shameful. For Ohio Republicans to strip the rights of citizens to hold law enforcement accountable is a power grab of the worst kind. For the events in a case like Mr. Floyd's to have gone unrecorded, due to the fear of arrest, would have truly criminal.

How many similar cases have happened historically where there was no proof? If that is the motive in House Bill 22, if that is a time in history Ohio Republicans want to return, then you need to look in a mirror and question who you are in Columbus to represent.

Signed,

**/s/Christopher E. Ericksen**

President Euclid Democrats