

Hello,

My name is Margaret Distler. I live in Ashtabula City in Ashtabula County, Ohio. I am a 67-year-old female. I recently retired after 30 years in Law Enforcement. I have a daughter, grandsons and soon a great granddaughter. Those growing up now should have the same rights I had while growing up and throughout my life.

I strongly oppose HB22. This bill is too ambiguous. By having no set standard for 'distraction' this bill leaves a very slippery slope for what one person might think vs. what another might think.

There are laws on the books now that cover these items that are in HB22, all we need to do is enforce them. We do not need to add more. I would think that everyone above the age of 9-10 would know that you must follow the lawful order of a P.O. I think the operative word here is lawful. What would stop any Officer from saying to leave an area, just because they do not want anyone watching what they are doing? Another slippery slope. As far as taunting, striking, or throwing an object, these are all covered in laws that we already have on the books.

Our 1st amendment gives us the right to free speech, I want to continue to have my freedom of speech. Look back to the History of our great nation, and the History of our Civil Rights. Criminalizing free speech and silencing the people of Ohio, prevents us from coming together and moving forward. Other likeminded persons and I will have the right to feel outraged by any politician who would silence the voices of those who speak out against injustice.

This Bill will ultimately end up costing a lot of money by trying to defend it when it comes down to it. The Supreme Court has said that **streets and sidewalks have "immemorially been held in trust for the use of the public" to make our voices heard.**

Once again, please there are plenty of laws on the books for Police Departments to use and enforce.

Thank you for listening.

Thank you for your consideration.

Stay safe,
Margaret Distler