

Chairman LaRe, Vice Chair Swearingen, Ranking Member Leland, and members of the Criminal Justice Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony. My name is Lisa Much. I am just a concerned citizen who lives in downtown Columbus. I am opposed to HB 22.

I find HB 22 not only alarming, but also a waste of the General Assembly's time. According to the Legislative Services Commission's analysis of this bill, "The bill largely addresses conduct prohibited under current law." However, "the bill provides the standard of "recklessly," as compared to current law requiring the culpable mental state of "knowingly" causing or attempting to cause "physical harm.""

To me, it seems this bill is intentionally adding vague language that can be enforced arbitrarily with the goal of silencing Ohioans who are practicing their first amendment rights while also potentially ensuring they are incarcerated.

It seems like this bill's purpose is to send a message to the Ohioans who came out last summer to practice their first amendment rights. The message seems to be that Ohioans who protest police don't matter. I cannot understand why the General Assembly would waste time and resources considering a bill that offers so little to the law (except to incarcerate people who some in the legislature may disagree with) unless it was to illustrate that some voices and people matter more than others.

Additionally, as I write this, the central Ohio community is reeling from the police shooting of Ma'Khia Bryant, a sixteen year old child. From video footage, it seems as though the officer shot this child within fourteen seconds of arriving on the scene, and from the point of view of the body camera, shooting without fully registering what was even going on. Someone on the camera can be heard yelling, "She's a kid!" at the officer who shot, and ultimately killed this child. With this bill, this proclamation that she is a child - after she'd been shot four times - could be viewed as distracting, and therefore punishable. This is not the time for this bill. There is actually no time for this wasteful bill.

I ask you to consider my testimony as a concerned Ohioan and vote NO on this seemingly unconstitutional bill. It sends a really bad message, and is absolutely not what Ohio needs. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.