

Opponent of H.B.22-Expanding Offense of Obstruction of Justice

Greetings Honorable Criminal Justice Committee members,

Today, I am addressing my fellow republicans as an opponent of H.B.22 and requesting an amendment to H.B. 22 due to the fact it is unconstitutional legislation. As Republicans, we are the defenders of the U.S. Constitution since 1854; when the Republican Party was formed. In 1856, former anti-slavery democrat and one of the founding members of the Republican Party Senator Charles Sumner of Massachusetts defended the inequalities and injustices of Blacks slaves in the Senate chambers. Until he was attacked and beaten with a cane over his head by Representative Preston Brooks (pro-slavery) of South Carolina. It took three and a half years for Senator Sumner to return to the same Senate floor. Just a hidden little black history fact that help changes the rights of American Negro slaves between two white men.

H.B. No. 22 is a violation of ALL the constituents of Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, and the state of Ohio constitutional right to freedom of speech. For this legislative body to ALLOW police and law enforcement officers the authority to arrest innocent bystanders for recording or video taping police misconduct or behavior unbecoming to a law enforcement officer. It will be unconstitutional if H.B. 22 pass and this legislative body will have violated the constitutional rights of ALL races and creeds that live in the state of Ohio. Not to mention, it will be a disgrace to the oath of office this legislative body took as Ohio House of Representatives before sitting on this Criminal Justice Committee.

Here is my rationale for Opposition to H.B. No.22 and the Ohio Criminal Justice Committee Appointment Selection Process:

First, the cellphone is one of the most useful apparatuses to mankind from recording George Floyd's last words "I can't breathe" to being one of the key pieces of evidence for the conviction of Derek Chauvin on April 20th,2021. The cellphone recording of George Floyd's last 9 minutes 22 seconds of life left NO doubt in anyone's mind police misconduct was visible and Derek Chauvin initiated it. But the cellphone is worthless without the BYSTANDER, think about it.

Second, the city of Cleveland has had over 93 police killings and been under a current Consent Decree since 2014. The city of East Cleveland had 137 shots tragedy of two unarmed black people with Cleveland police officers. Do not forget, the city of Cleveland had a 12-year-old boy killed by Cleveland police at Cudell recreation center on the westside. These facts alone question the Ohio criminal justice committee selection process, when there is NO representation from Cleveland seating on the Criminal Justice Committee in the state of Ohio. As a constituent of District 10, I nominate House Representative Terrence Upchurch (District 10) to the Ohio Criminal Justice committee.

As a fellow republican, I am requesting H.B. No.22 not to be voted out of committee and/ or amend H.B.22 to exclude the innocent bystander or bystander recording with cellphone police misconduct or behavior unbecoming as law enforcement officer from being arrested for obstructing justice.

Donna Walker-Brown

RPCC Executive Committee Chairman

