

Dear members of the Ohio Senate Criminal Justice Committee:

Re: HB 22:

No. Absolutely not. In the strongest possible terms, do not advance this bill.

This would give the police the legal right to detain anyone within their line of sight, at their discretion, at any time that they choose to interact with the public.

As a woman I've been subject to numerous stops where the sole purpose seemed to be for an officer to provide himself the opportunity to handle my body roughly. For the last several weeks and years we've come to see evidence in the news every day that some members of law enforcement abuse their power in order to excessively brutalize, harm, and even kill our citizens, often disproportionately targeting members of black and other minority communities. It has become increasingly clear that the police exercise their enforcement tactics unevenly, seemingly to round up members of certain demographics for fines and mass incarceration, that this bill cannot be seen as anything other than advancing their license to do so.

For you to pretend that you don't know this kind of abuse and discrimination happens is a brutal lie. Voting for the passage of this bill indicates not only a willingness to overlook sexual assault, discriminatory mass incarceration, and rampant unchecked police brutality -- in a word, a culture of slavery -- but in fact places you in total alignment with these behaviors as a form of mission statement.

It should be impossible for you to pass this bill to the floor and continue to lay claim to any shred of humanity. I mean it in the strongest of possible terms when I say it will be a lasting indictment of your character.

Vote NO on HB 22.