

Dear Criminal Justice Committee,

HB 109 criminalizes individuals participating in peaceful public witness actions that have historically created positive change in our country. It also puts Faith and non-profit organizations at risk of bankruptcy for encouraging peaceful public witness.

(F)(1) Whoever violates division (A), (B), (C), or (D) of this section is guilty of vandalism. Except as otherwise provided in this division, vandalism is a felony of the fifth degree that is punishable by a fine of up to two thousand five hundred dollars in addition to the penalties specified for a felony of the fifth degree in sections 2929.11 to 2929.18 of the Revised Code. If the value of the property or the amount of physical harm involved is seven thousand five hundred dollars or more but less than one hundred fifty thousand dollars, vandalism

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is a felony of the fourth degree. If the value of the property or the amount of physical harm involved is one hundred fifty thousand dollars or more, vandalism is a felony of the third degree.

This bill is very vague and open for interpretation, especially when challenging peaceful protests organized by church groups fighting for justice in Ohio and those who can not be heard. This bill is shameful and I encourage all to vote NO.

Thank You for your time.

Julie Boetger