

11-16-22

To: OHIO HOUSE GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
RE: SB 185

Chair Wilkin, Vice-Chair White, Ranking Member Brown, and members of the committee,

Thank you for your attention to these concerns.

I write in opposition to SB 185 because:

- Firearms at protests intimidate others.
- Intimidation threatens the right of the people to peacefully assemble.
- No one at a protest should face a gun.
- Firearms not only intimidate, they can also be used, with deadly results.
- People witnessing violence or threats of violence can suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder.
- I would never own a gun, let alone use it to threaten another person. Neither violence nor nonviolence can make you safe.
- Democracy does not come from the end of a gun.
- I oppose violence but reserve the right to protest inhumane laws and actions. I do not want to face a gun pointed at me.
- Governments overreach.
- There has never been a successful social movement that has not included civil disobedience. As governments allow corporations to gain power over individual freedoms, people need to rise up and reclaim democracy. Nonviolently.
- Violence is weakness, not strength. Real strength is in being able to convince others of the justness of one's cause.

Peaceful protests are often infiltrated by thieves and provocateurs. These people break windows, steal property, and can carry weapons and/or use violence, which is picked up quickly by the media and then used to discredit the protesters and also discredit their cause. Why aren't the police protecting property? That would stop provocateurs and thrill-seekers from wreaking that kind of havoc, while allowing the peaceful protests to continue.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Respectfully,

Patricia Ann Marida