

Chair Peterson, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Forhan, and members of the House Government Oversight Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today.

My name is Adrienne Hood and I live in Columbus, Ohio. I am not only a concerned community member but an impacted family member. I am the Vice Chair of Ohio Families Unite Against Police Brutality. I oppose House Bill 100 and urge you to vote no.

The proposal making the blue line flag a protected flag is disheartening in many ways. While I understand that this officer was killed in the line of duty, so have many soldiers, airmen, seamen, and marines, and yet none of their individual flags are protected. As a matter of fact, when they are killed in the line of duty their families are given an American flag.

Besides that fact and perhaps the deeper one to consider is that you have constituents in your own districts who have been killed by police officers and but for qualified immunity and case laws they would have been held accountable. There are a number of flags in this country that don't have any special protection and you just may be opening the door for others to make the same argument for their flag being protected. We cannot have knee jerk reactions and never look down the road a bit to see how this can grow.

This blue line phenomenon doesn't only represent those who have died in the line of duty, it also represents those coworkers who have done egregious harm and oftentimes death to members of each of your communities. There are so many challenges facing our country and our state without adding unnecessary trauma and harm. Where or when will we get back to a place of trying to heal or mend instead of the constant divide!

Thank you for your time!

Ms. Adrienne Hood