

NAACP

Cleveland Branch

To: Government Oversight Committee
From: Kayla Griffin, Ohio State Director, All Voting is Local/Action
Date: Apr 24, 2023
Re: Opposing Testimony on HB 100

Chair Peterson, Ranking Member Forhan, and members of the Government Oversight Committee:

My name is Kayla Griffin, and I am the serve as the president of the Cleveland Branch of the NAACP. I am in strong opposition to House Bill 100.

We are in a time where flags and symbols have become extremely inflammatory. Many in the Black community see this flag and it incites fear, anger and vitriol. The protection of the “Thin Blue Line” (TBL) flag solely is an egregious action by this legislature and crosses the infringement on Free Speech.

To be clear, singling out the TBL flag for protection over a Black Lives Matter (BLM) flag or a Pride Rainbow flag is an infringement of Free Speech. The General Assembly cannot offer statutory protection for one form or messaging and speech and not offer it to all messaging and speech.

This is dangerous cherry picking that our legislatures should not engage it. What flags are flown by tenets are private contract matters and should remain as such. I hope that I do not have to remind you all as lawmakers that you represent all of your constituents! If this bill will be further considered, you have to allow for all manners of expression and speech, not just one.

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

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