

May 22, 2024

RE: Support of S.B. 32

Good morning Chairman Manning, Vice Chair Reynolds, ranking member Hicks-Hudson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. I testify in support of S.B. 32.

Over the past decade we have seen a significant increase in acts of violence against houses of worship, schools, and our workplaces. According to a recent Family Research Council report, acts of violence and hostility are at an all-time high against houses of worship (Jan. 2018 to Nov. 2023).

With the onslaught of cameras everywhere today, we are now exposed, more than ever before, to regular acts of violence being met by people responding to stop the violence. In many cases this is just the average person acting, other times, it is a single individual or a group who are trained to protect their fellow human beings. Thus, limiting the number of innocent lives taken or seriously injured.

Police officers are provided qualified immunity because of the actions they must take at times to defend themselves and/or protect the lives of others, regardless of the amount of training they've had to mitigate the use of force. This bill will extend civil liability immunity protection to Ohioans who, in good faith, take the necessary action to protect themselves and the innocent lives of others.

This is an excellent step in the right direction. This is a good bill. We need to encourage our fellow Ohioans to take responsibility to protect themselves and their families. Too many times people are afraid to act for fear of the legal consequences and their inaction only leads to further destruction and devastation. We should surround and protect those who step forward to protect innocent lives by eliminating this obstacle.

S.B. 32 establishes necessary protections for those who choose to act, including putting themselves in harm's way for the betterment of society. Again, this is a good bill that results in good public policy. I support and highly recommend its passage.

Respectfully submitted,

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