

My name is Samantha Baker and I was born and raised right here in central Ohio. I am here today to ask this committee to oppose House Bill 188. This bill does nothing to prioritize the well-being of Ohioans who are struggling every day just to exist in this state. In just a couple of days, SNAP benefits will be cut and families here in Ohio that are already struggling will be unable to afford to feed themselves. Our supposed “representatives” have continued to make cuts to our public education, our libraries, our very infrastructure, while doing nothing to ameliorate the very real challenges that Ohioans are facing every day. All the while, committees like this one continue to propose legislation that would strip Ohioans of our rights and funnel \$10 million of OUR money into risky, unethical international political projects that most Americans vehemently oppose. This bill does NOT benefit everyday Ohioans, and to claim otherwise is a lie. More than that, this legislation is one-sided, represents a lack of transparency and oversight, and will only contribute to economic instability here at home.

I urge this committee to reject HB 188 and do what you were elected to do – represent the needs of Ohioans and put forth legislation that actually addresses these needs in tangible ways (not proposing bills that gives our money to genocidal regimes while claiming this will somehow benefit Ohioans).

Thank you for your time and consideration.