

Dear Distinguished Senators

It is an honor and privilege to be able to be here today. I will try my best to be short and brief.

I've lived in Columbus for 27 years. I've been in Ohio all my life. However there is one time of year that I absolutely dread and that is July 4th. July 4th is a maddening experience for my family and myself.

I am someone who experiences high anxiety. I also have several parrots as pets who lives are put in immediate danger due to loud sounds. Parrots are susceptible to instant heart attacks if frightened enough. As such, I am coming to you today ask you to please vote down House Bill 253. The July 4th timeframe produces an incredible amount of stress and worry that we as citizens should not have to endure.

Lately it seems we talk about ways we need to protect the public everyday. We talk about encouraging individuals to stand six feet apart and wear a mask. So why can't we encourage individuals to not set off combustibles? Why can't the same effort put into protecting individuals from a pandemic be put into place for an ever bigger danger to the public?

Now, please understand I'm not here to ruin anyone's celebration of our great country or their pride they may have in our nation. However, there comes a time where we as a species needs to move forward from the excitement of bright shiny lights and explosions for entertainment. We are not longer apes looking at fire in amazement or teenagers attempting a dopamine hit We need to evolve we need to move beyond this.

I can not tell you the agony that someone with PTSD has trying to survive July 4th. Nor the numerous amounts of pets who are scared, frightened during this time, and the numerous wildlife that destroyed. Nor do we ever talk about the accidents that happen. I've personally have seen a bottle rocket burn down someone's garage. Nor do we converse about the unnecessary strain July 4th puts on our Hospital Emergency rooms, Fire Departments, Police and Code enforcement. Shouldn't we be giving these First Responders the day off for their great service, not make them work till the wee hours of the morning? Lastly have you ever seen a child lose an eye to a fireworks? This shouldn't be happening. The sale and proliferation of these items need to go!

We can celebrate responsibility and not burn down our houses and torture our neighbors. There are many ways to enjoy this holiday without causing destruction and pollution.

So I am asking you to please vote down this Bill. It's time for Ohioans to come out the dark ages and find ways to celebrate other than setting out napalm. I also beg and encourage you to please start working with your cohorts in the House to establish more laws, more penalties, for those who choose to ignore these dangers and put our lives, and the lives of our love ones at risk. I would love to see citizens organized with public block watches to setup surveillance and allow reporting of illegal firework execution back to law enforcement.

In closing...

My birds are my children. They are everything to me. I don't want to be the cankerous old man in the neighborhood but I would do everything in my power to help protect them. I should have the right and privilege to exist in my home without fear of audio terrorism at the risk of my family and my sanity.

Please take this and my other considerations into your vote and keep Ohioans safe, not put us in unnecessary danger.

I thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Anthony S. Anselmo  
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