

Hello,

3/1/2021

My name is Margaret Distler. I live in Ashtabula city in Ashtabula County Ohio. I am a 67 year of female. I recently retired after 30 years in Law Enforcement. I have a daughter, grandsons and soon a great granddaughter. Those growing up should have the same rights I had while growing up and throughout my life.

I strongly oppose SB 16. It is Un American and against my rights and everyone's right to free speech.

We should as Americans here in the United States have the right to have our voices and opinions heard.

This bill is simply wrong on so many levels. So, 5 of my friends are saying a slogan by walking on a sidewalk in front of a business, we can be charged with Riot and be facing felonies? How Ludicrous. A felony conviction can impact people's livelihood, they could lose their jobs or not be eligible for a good future job because they felt strongly about something and decided to let their voices be heard. This could impact them, their family, and their community.

We have laws on the books already that can be used to stop the people that are turning peaceful protests in real riots. There are laws against violence and laws against Vandalism, etc. All we need to do is enforce the laws already on the books.

It is also ludicrous that if my organization is having a peaceful protest about something and an apposing faction shows up and gets out of control my organization, who had no control whatsoever over this other group, can be liable for any damage that they did, or have to pay for the extra patrol that had to be called out. This is just not fair in any manner.

Our 1st amendment gives us the right to free speech, I want to continue to have my freedom of speech. Look back to the History of our great nation, and the History of our Civil Rights. This must remain!

Thank you and remember I strongly Oppose this Bill.

Stay safe,
Stay healthy,
Margaret P Distler