

Chairman Nathan Manning, Vice Chair Rob McColley, Ranking Member Cecil Thomas, and members of the Judiciary Committee.

My name is Caylan Fazio and I live in Columbus, Ohio. I am a young professional and also the volunteer Chapter Leader of Ohio #insulin4all, a grassroots group raising awareness about the insulin price crisis and pushing for transparency and lower insulin prices. The views I express in my testimony are my own and do not represent the opinions of any organization with whom I am affiliated.

I strongly oppose Senate Bill 16 because Ohio already has laws that penalize for the same activity outlined in this bill. Only, SB 16 increases these penalties so severely that it discourages Ohioans from organizing peaceful protests — a right guaranteed by our U.S. Constitution.

Peaceful protests and marches are ways we can increase visibility of the injustices we experience. It is through peaceful protest that we can gain public awareness and support for grassroots movements, like patient-led #insulin4all.

I am a young organizer with many career plans. Under SB 16, organizing or participating in a peaceful protest to increase visibility and awareness is a threat to my career. This bill raises the stakes of holding a peaceful protest to the point of discouraging it or facing the unintended consequences of felony charges and high fees.

Above all else, the punishments outlined in this bill do not seem to match their offense. So is this an intimidation tactic to prevent the full expression of our first amendment rights: namely, freedom to assemble and right to petition?

If you do not understand my situation and my need to organize, perhaps you are not reliant on a high cost medication that exploits your life for gain. I do not wish for anyone to intimately understand this grave situation the way I do. Instead, I ask you to consider me and your fellow Ohioans who advocate their lives. I am a voter, an Ohioan, and a young professional whose career could be tarnished by any slight mishap. Please consider my testimony and vote no on this dangerous bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify. You may contact me by phone or email with any questions you may have.

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