

Testimony: Verbal Written Both Testifying As: _____

Proponent Opponent Interested Party Are you a Registered Lobbyist?

Yes No

Special Requests: _____

Written testimony is a public record and may be posted on the Ohio Senate's website

I am a newly retired elementary/middle school teacher, proud to live in a country where I can speak publicly about my views on legislation or conditions which need to be changed. SB 16, if passed, would cement the stifling of such speech. Most recently, I've promoted Medicare For All - a program which has the support of a vast majority of the American people. The First Amendment was added into the Constitution to encourage, protect and promote peaceful protest and educate the public. High traffic areas are optimum for this kind of public education, and the Supreme Court has said that streets and sidewalks have "immemorially been held in trust for the use of the public" to make our voices heard. Teachers would find future employment in jeopardy by the threat of a fifth degree felony for four or more people dubbed a "riot" under this bill, and fines of 2.5K with a year in prison - at the discretion of a police with the right to sue for arbitrary reasons, like "temporary damages", e.g. chalk writing on sidewalks and the use of profanity. This bill, if passed, would insure the continued disintegration of a respectful relationship between police and public and the undermining of Ohio as a State where young people want to settle, a State where civil rights would be protected, unjust wars criticized and where women could have won the right to vote. History has taught that the greater the oppression, the more violent the rebellion. Stop and think, then vote no on SB 16.