

House Bill 109 is so restrictive that it would effectively eliminate our First Amendment right to protest. In particular:

No person shall recklessly cause inconvenience, annoyance, or alarm to another by doing any of the following:

- (1) Engaging in fighting, in threatening harm to persons or property, or in violent or turbulent behavior; As Introduced
- (2) Making unreasonable noise or an offensively coarse utterance, gesture, or display or communicating unwarranted and grossly abusive language to any person;
- (3) Insulting, taunting, or challenging another, under circumstances in which that conduct is likely to provoke a violent response;
- (4) Hindering or preventing the movement of persons on a public street, road, highway, or right-of-way, or to, from, within, or upon public or private property, so as to interfere with the rights of others, and by any act that serves no lawful and reasonable purpose of the offender;
- (5) Creating a condition that is physically offensive to persons or that presents a risk of physical harm to persons or property, by any act that serves no lawful and reasonable purpose of the offender.

This is vague and will be used against members of the public. "violent or turbulent behavior", "unreasonable noise or an offensively coarse utterance", and "reasonable purpose" are all incredibly vague and subjective phrases. It is widely known that this will be unevenly applied: Citizens will be held to impossible standards. For several months last year we watched police provoke people with physical and verbal attacks. They created conditions that were physically offensive and presented risks of physical harm to many people. If people were to become violent or destroy property as a result of police provocation, we know that officers would NOT be held to this bill's standards.

I was pepper sprayed for the unforgiveable act of standing on the sidewalk near a protest while quietly texting, and was pepper sprayed by a Columbus Police Officer with no verbal warning. As this continued, I watched a calm crowd grow increasingly afraid and angry as they were being attacked and not allowed to leave. I still suffer respiratory issues from that. There was no lawful

or reasonable purpose to pepper spray people standing on a sidewalk. This occurred on May 29th, 2020, and it was an incident that was under investigation and widely considered to be a gross abuse of power. Yet, if I had yelled or fought back, I would be charged very harshly under the proposed bill. Are we not a country based on individual rights? When you limit the actions that citizens are allowed to take, you put in place a pathway for a tyrannical government to limit our rights. If police or government officials take action that provokes a riot or violence, will they be charged with felonies?

We all know that creating that path is the point of this bill. We all know it will be used both intentionally or unintentionally to silence Black people, POC, and people protesting on their behalf. If this were not the case, this would have been thought of and introduced when angry white people were blocking ambulances from pulling into hospitals to protest mask mandates. People of conscience will not vote in favor of this bill. You may think you are doing something principled, until the law is used to oppress you, too.