

To Whom It May Concern:

I write this in support of HB 1138 and, as a veteran, I served to protect and defend the rights of the people that includes the right to petition government that is done through the use of rights as free speech and freedom of expression in hopes of also receiving equal treatment and equal protection that should not be denied without due process.

In recent years, whether out of complacency or corruption, rights of the people have been chipped away at and eroded to the point of having so little value that the role of the people in government has been limited to voting and paying taxes as if the people are no longer the reason that government exists but just to help government persist.

Beliefs of “We the People” and that of a “government of the people by the people for the people” are no longer considered meaningful by government but as catch phrases or words of appeasement instead of words defining principles and a purpose for why government exists when it exists to serve the people.

Words can become just words on paper and words that lose their value when a value is not assigned to them, much the way free speech has come under attack in so many ways as the struggle for power at the expense of the people continues. This country is so often at war or in military conflicts that the sacrifices made to protect the rights of the people have been diminished.

The purpose of, and need for, HB 1138 is to remind government not only of rights of the people like free speech but that there surely must be a cost for violating that right after others paid the ultimate cost, by sacrificing their lives, to protect such a right. It is now that the good should act to not only protect free speech but to ensure that when any part of government seeks to violate that right that there will be a price to pay.

Sincerely,

S. Paul Jordan