Esteemed members of the committee,

I write before you today to voice my opposition to the proposed changes regarding the definition of "human being" and "person" as they relate to the offenses of murder and assault, as well as civil actions for death caused by wrongful acts. The current legal framework sufficiently addresses these issues, and the proposed modifications may have unintended and detrimental consequences.

The existing definitions of "human being" and "person" within our legal system are deeply rooted in established jurisprudence and have been consistently applied to ensure justice. Altering these definitions risks creating ambiguity and inconsistency in the application of law. This could lead to increased litigation and a backlog in our already burdened court system, ultimately hindering the pursuit of justice.

Current definitions adequately protect the rights and well-being of individuals. Expanding or modifying these definitions may inadvertently dilute the protections currently afforded to victims or murder and assault.

Changes to legal definitions often have far-reaching and unforeseen consequences. By altering the definitions of "human being" and "person," we risk creating loopholes that can be exploited by those seeking to evade justice. For example, broadening the definition of "person" could allow perpetrators of heinous crimes to manipulate the system to their advantage, undermining the very principles of accountability and justice.

The definitions of "human being" and "person" carry significant philosophical and ethical weight. These terms are not merely legal constructs but also reflect our societal values and moral beliefs. Any changes to these definitions should be approached with utmost caution and deep reflection. Rushed or poorly considered modifications could lead to a disconnection between our laws and the ethical principles they are meant to embody.

In conclusion, I urge this committee to carefully consider the potential ramifications of altering the definitions of "human being" and "person." The current legal framework has served our society well, providing clarity, consistency, and protection for individuals. Any proposed changes should be thoroughly examined to ensure they do not inadvertently weaken the very foundations of our legal system.

I respectfully request that you <u>oppose</u> the proposed modifications and maintain the current definitions to ensure justice and fairness for all.

Thank you for your time and consideration.