



August 4, 2021

Representative Nima Kulkarni
702 Capital Avenue
Annex Room 429E
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Rep. Kulkarni:

The Bluegrass Institute for Public Policy Solutions submits this letter in support of an Anti-SLAPP legislation. Our organization was founded in 2003 and since that time has been a voice for the rights of the Kentucky citizens and for open, transparent government – both of which are under attack with Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPP) lawsuits. BR 13 functions to discourage attempts by SLAPPs to intimidate and silence public critics.

The First Amendment protects freedom of speech, freedom of the press and the right to assemble or petition the government, including in matters of public concern. Open records requesters and citizens who testify in committee for or against a policy should not be threatened with a lawsuit just for exercising their constitutional rights. The right to speak out or criticize is fundamental to government accountability and one of the pillars of a democratic nation.

We believe the policy contained in BR 13 will allow the public and media to meaningfully engage in public affairs, exercising their statutory rights to secure access to public records and to speak freely on matters of public concern.

Respectfully,

Jim Waters, President and CEO
Bluegrass Institute for Public Policy Solutions

Bluegrass Institute for Public Policy Solutions
P.O. Box 11706
Lexington, Kentucky 40577
www.bipps.org