



Public Participation Project

Fighting for Free Speech

August 4, 2021

Interim Joint Committee on Judiciary
Kentucky House of Representatives
702 Capital Ave
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Members of the Interim Joint Committee on Judiciary,

I am the Policy Director of the Public Participation Project (PPP), a non-profit organization fighting for the First Amendment rights of all Americans.

I am writing to you on behalf of PPP in support of 22 RS BR 13, a bill that will enact anti-SLAPP legislation in Kentucky, strengthening the First Amendment rights of all Kentuckians.

This issue is very important and personal to me. I was born and raised in Louisville, Kentucky, and have spent my entire legal career working to strengthen the First Amendment rights of all Americans across the country. In addition to working to pass federal anti-SLAPP legislation, our organization works with states to enact new anti-SLAPP laws.

For background, here is a link to a scorecard PPP put together for state anti-SLAPP laws across the country:

<https://anti-slapp.org/your-states-free-speech-protection/>

As you can see, Kentucky currently has a "F" on our scorecard because it does not have an anti-SLAPP law.

It's time for Kentucky to be among the ranks of states with great anti-SLAPP laws that provide strong protections for First Amendment activities within our state. It will send a clear and strong message to all of those in Kentucky that you strongly value and respect their rights of free speech and petition activity.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss further.

Thank you for your attention to this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

Evan Mascagni
Policy Director
Public Participation Project
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