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Democrats Respond to HB 1 in Judiciary Committee

Tallahassee, Fla. – Late Wednesday afternoon, controversial [HB 1](#) was presented in the House Judiciary committee, marking its final scheduled committee stop in the Florida House of Representatives.

Democratic members of the committee made the following statements during today's meeting:

“The correct response to an attack on our democracy is not to introduce and pass legislation that will actually make our society less democratic. I'm deeply concerned, and I think this echoes concerns raised by Rep. Diamond, that legislation like this is driving us more deeply into our corners. It is deepening the political divide in this country,” Democratic Ranking Member **Representative Fentrice Driskell (D- Tampa)**

“When we get letters from law professors raising red flags saying that words like ‘participating,’ words like ‘acting in common interest,’ that those are vague terms. Those of us on the Judiciary Committee shouldn't just ignore those comments,” **Representative Ben Diamond (D- St. Petersburg)**

“A ‘no’ vote does not mean you endorse violent protests, but many of us know why they happen,” **Representative Michael Grieco (D- Miami Beach)**

“These bills take our communities backwards. It takes bravery to ignore the misleading rhetoric behind this legislation. It takes bravery to reject the outdated philosophy that has made our criminal justice system less effective, less fair, and

less just. And it takes bravery to recognize that these bills not only do nothing to make the lives of Floridians better, they make them worse by encroaching on our most sacred freedoms,” **Representative Dianne Hart (D- Tampa)**

“You’re casting a net... that enables the counter protester to get everybody there arrested by creating a riot himself. It’s counter intuitive. I would urge us to put the breaks on this bill,” **Representative Michael Gottlieb (D- Davie)**

“I’ve received over 13,000 emails, all but 6 were in opposition. This bill, might be the first in the history of the Florida House to unite abortion protesters with Planned Parenthood. This has united self described socialists with police chiefs and Trump rioters with Black Lives Matter protesters... all in opposition. So I ask myself: What are we doing here? This bill isn’t helping families that have lost a loved one to COVID-19, saving a small business by delivering relief when we need it most, or getting our kid’s schools back on track,” **Representative Andrew Learned (D- Brandon)**

“These laws, regardless of how you put it, they will not be equally applied, and let me tell you why. Because it will be up to the discretion of a law enforcement officer, who’s already intimidated, not all of them, my grandfather was a law enforcement officer, some of my best friends are law enforcement officers, but you cannot dictate and control human behavior and you cannot control implicit bias,” **Representative Ramon Alexander (D- Tallahassee)**

The committee will be available on [The Florida Channel’s](#) archive library.

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