

Written Statement: House Hearing, Feb. 28, 2023

<p>Bill Richardson, Pure Integrity for Michigan Elections</p> <p>https://www.pureintegritymichiganelections.org/ purintegrityforme@gmail.com</p> <p>In support: Stand Up Michigan, Mid Michigan Women for Conservative Values, The Oak Initiative, Freedom Alliance Project</p>	<p>Before the Michigan House Standing Committee on Elections, Representative Tsernoglou, Chair</p> <p>Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2023, 10:30 AM, Room 327, House Office Building, Lansing, MI</p> <p>Committee Clerk: Edward Sleeper Phone: (517) 373-2002 e-Mail: esleeper@house.mi.gov</p>
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This statement, submitted by Pure Integrity for Michigan Elections, comes with the support of Stand Up Michigan, the Freedom Alliance Project and Michigan Fair Elections. PIME is a peaceful, issue-based, nonpartisan political movement. We welcome all who support election integrity and the US and Michigan Constitutions.

AGENDA:

HB 4033 Elections; special elections; state to reimburse costs for certain special elections; require.
(Rep. Paiz)

PIME POSITION: NO POSITION

HB 4127 Weapons; other; possession of firearms at a polling place; prohibit.
(Rep. Tsernoglou)

PIME POSITION: OPPOSE. Declaring areas as ‘gun free’ does NOT make them safer. In fact, it makes them more dangerous. A full 96% of all mass shootings between 1998 and 2018 occurred in so called ‘gun free’ zones (crimeresearch.org). We want voters to feel safe, so we oppose this bill. If it does pass, we respectfully request that an exception be made for CPL licensees as these individuals statistically reduce crime and are some of the most law-abiding citizens in the country.

The Supreme Court has ruled on this subject. The recent *Bruen* decision by the U.S. Supreme Court disallows states from prohibiting the bearing of firearms in public, unless such a prohibition applies to a limited number of “sensitive places” such as courthouses and schools. In his opinion, Justice Thomas made it clear that states must not abuse the “sensitive places”

exemption by applying it too broadly. The proposed legislation, at a bare minimum, abuses this “sensitive places” exemption for the reasons that PIME has made plain.

Also, regarding the ballot drop box provision, many drop-boxes are located curbside, which would mean anyone driving down the road or walking on the sidewalk guilty of a misdemeanor if they are legally carrying a firearm. In many cases the person may not even know they are walking or driving past a drop box.

[HB 4128](#)
(Rep. Young) Weapons; other; firearms within 100 feet of an absentee ballot counting board while ballots are being counted; prohibit.

PIME POSITION: OPPOSE. Same reasons as for HB4127.

[HB 4129](#)
(Rep. Hope) Elections; offenses; intimidating an election inspector or preventing an election inspector from performing his or her duties; prohibit.

PIME POSITION: OPPOSE. This bill would make someone a felon and subject them to sentencing of five years in prison on the mere fact that someone claimed their feelings were hurt. We already have laws to protect people from assault and from intimidation. We cannot start criminalizing people based upon other’s professed feelings. This directly violates the 1st amendment right to free speech. It appears intended to have a chilling effect on citizen exercising their duties to oversee and ensure fair and honest elections. Redefining the term *intimidation* is dangerous.

Anti-intimidation laws already exist. As recently October 2020, the courts struck down a version of HB 4129. The Detroit Free Press reported on the ruling.

“Voter intimidation is — and remains — illegal under current Michigan law” the panel said.

<https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2020/10/29/michigan-court-appeals-open-carry-polls-legal/6075907002/>

[HB 4130](#)
(Rep. Hope) Criminal procedure; sentencing guidelines; sentencing guidelines for certain Michigan election law violations dealing with intimidating an election official; provide for.

PIME POSITION: OPPOSE. The bill only is applicable if HB4129 is passed, which we have already opposed. Again, we don’t condone making someone a felon and putting them in prison simply because someone claimed their feelings were hurt.

Respectfully submitted,

<p>Bill Richardson, Chair, Legislative Committee Pure Integrity for Michigan Elections</p>	<p>Allies: Stand Up Michigan Freedom Alliance Project Michigan Fair Elections</p>
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