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Democrats Respond to HB 1 in Committee

Tallahassee, Fla. – Late Wednesday afternoon, controversial [HB 1](#) was presented to the House Criminal Justice & Public Safety Subcommittee, marking its first stop in the legislative process.

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

“In politics no matter what you do you're always going to disappoint someone. This bill seems to actually be designed to do just that to the tune of the basic constitutional rights of every Floridian. Our job is to fix something that's broken or improve something that can be better. This bill does not put food in anyone's mouth, vaccines in people's arms, or money in anyone's pocket,” Democratic Ranking Member **Representative Michael Grieco (D- Miami Beach)**

“Six months ago in Fort Lauderdale a group of young adults, 75% of them were Black and brown, were protesting peacefully, the officers showed up in riot gear ready for war. Just 3 weeks ago a group of people stormed the Capitol, got past the officers and got inside of the Capitol. If that group was Black or brown we would still be picking up body bags,” **Representative Patricia Williams (D- Pompano Beach)**

“Why is this necessary? Law enforcement already have the tools needed to prosecute crimes. This will do nothing to make us safer; it will only fill

up our jails and prisons, keeping people away from their families and jobs. My office has already received over 4,000 calls and emails about this bill. The people know this is a bad bill,” **Representative Dianne Hart (D- Tampa)**

“These criminal justice changes are unnecessary. This will be a hardship on the people and local law enforcement. It’s an unfunded mandate that will cost the taxpayers of Florida to needlessly incarcerate these people. We are in a different world since this bill was originally conceived. Tearing down statues is the least of our worries. This bill is simply not a priority and I cannot support it,” **Representative Kevin Chambliss (D- Homestead)**

“...I took an oath to fight and potentially die for their [protestors’] right to do so, which is why I cannot support this bill in its current form. This bill goes too far in reining in the freedom of speech and expression, it is too broad by not discerning between agitators and innocent attendees, and it is redundant in that we already have laws on the books to prosecute bad actors,” **Representative Andrew Learned (D- Brandon)**

The committee will be available for streaming on [The Florida Channel's](#) website.

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