



*Nevada State Legislature, 82nd Session:
Testimony in opposition to Assembly Bill 117*

Monday April 3, 2023

To the Chair and Members of the Assembly Judiciary Committee,

We at the Libertarian Party of Nevada write to you in staunch opposition to AB 117. This bill will not make Nevadans safer - to the contrary. The definition of “domestic terrorism” codified in this bill is overly broad and jeopardizes civil liberties. This bill creates a framework that is ripe for abuse and political weaponization.

The definition of domestic terrorism outlined in this bill is expansive and creates categories that can be easily manipulated to allow for investigations into nearly any dissident voice. It repurposes a range of offenses that are currently misdemeanors or minor crimes and reclassifies them as terrorism. This poses a risk to the citizenry by enabling unconstrained investigations into individuals for what would otherwise not be considered serious criminal activity.

As Lavrentiy Beria famously said; “*Show me the man and I’ll show you the crime*”. This bill expands the definition of terrorism such that a motivated actor could find justification to investigate a wide range of organizations or individuals. It could be interpreted to include certain forms of protest, civil disobedience or speech as “domestic terrorism”. By creating a new mandate to investigate terrorism, providing funding, and allowing wide latitude in the scope of this endeavor, AB117 opens the door to entrapment schemes and targeting.

Violence, incitement to violence, and criminal conspiracy are already punishable by law. Minor crimes and misdemeanors are not terrorism. This bill will not enhance the ability of law enforcement to pursue or prevent violent attacks or other crimes. It only creates a platform for political persecution and abuse.

Please vote NO on AB117.

Thank you for your consideration.