

Dear

I am writing as a member of

as I am deeply concerned about the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill.

As my MP I would like you to speak out against part 3 of the bill, and support changes made by the House of Lords that limit the damage it will do to our democracy.

Over our 106 year history, WI members have successfully campaigned for many of the rights and freedoms we take for granted today. WI members played a key role in campaigning for women to get the vote, for strong environmental protections and for action on the issues affecting some of our most marginalised communities. Today we continue to campaign for urgent action on climate change, violence against women and many other concerns. Joining with others to protest has been one of the ways that I and other WI members have made our voices heard on the issues we and our communities care about.

During discussion in the House of Lords, amendments were passed to remove some of the most damaging provisions in the Bill. These include those that give the police powers to restrict protests due to their noise level and to further restrict assemblies and one person protest. They also allowed provision for protest on the streets around Parliament. These changes must be retained by MPs when the Bill returns to the Commons, and I strongly urge you to support them.

I am concerned that restricting protests based on noise could mean that many peaceful assemblies and marches are suppressed. This power would be open to abuse, having the potential to suppress inconvenient or embarrassing protests. The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights has called for this measure to be removed from the bill, stating it was "not necessary in a democratic society".

Opposition to part 3 of the bill now includes over 350 organisations and 800,000 members of the public. I am deeply concerned that part 3 of the bill represents a serious threat to my rights and the rights of my fellow citizens to make our views known and to ensure our voices are heard in our democracy.

The bill is due to return to the House of Commons during week of 28<sup>th</sup> February.

The right to join with others, make our voices heard and to protest is a cornerstone of our democracy. Please act to protect it by speaking up for my freedom and supporting the changes to Part 3 made by the House of Lords.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,