

Hello,

My name is Nicholas Youngblood, and I am a first year student at The Ohio State University. I am testifying against HB 41, because I sincerely believe that it would be harmful to our state's democracy. I am a firm believer in democracy, and I know that it can only be improved by larger participation. The more people we have at the voting booths, the greater this state and this country can become. Bills like this, while seemingly inconsequential, can have a massive negative impact. A simple piece of ID might not seem like much, but to less privileged individuals it could be a massive roadblock. A great example is college students, such as myself. I live a three hour drive away, outside of Toledo, and getting home to acquire identification is something I have had to do, and it was a massively time-consuming and inconvenient process. While this may seem like a small requirement (a simple piece of ID), any ruling that makes voting even incrementally more difficult or more complex is a detriment to the democratic process. Every law tightening restrictions represents a group of people who will decide its just too much effort to put forth. There is no such thing as a restriction that will increase voter turn out. And all of this is to solve a problem that simply does not exist in our state. Out of the 5,536,528 votes cast in Ohio last year, only 126 were non-citizens, representing less than .002% of the total. This pales in comparison to the thousands who will likely be severely impacted by this bill. Thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony, and I hope it is carefully considered.

Nicholas Youngblood