



Testimony in Opposition to HB 41,
Modifying Voting Procedures (Absentee In-Person Voting/Early Voting)

April 24, 2017

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to HB 41. Project Vote is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to realizing the promise of American democracy. Our mission is to build an electorate that accurately represents the diversity of America's citizenry, and to ensure that every eligible citizen can register to vote and cast a ballot that counts.

Existing Ohio law allows voters during early voting to show the same identification as required on Election Day or to provide their driver's license number or last four of Social Security number. The current process has easily been administered and keeps early voting running efficiently, thereby reducing lines and other hassles. Eliminating the alternatives to showing identification would cause unnecessary confusion for voters and complications for election officials. Further, there is no evidence of widespread problems, including for example, voter impersonation, which would justify this change. It is a solution in search of a problem.

Moreover, the substitute amendment appears to make no practical changes to existing law. Current law includes the option of showing a form of identification required on Election Day. As such, this amendment is redundant and confusing.

Simply put, the process simply is not broken and does not need to be changed. For these reasons, we urge you to vote no on HB 41 and the substitute amendment.

Please contact me if you have any further questions. Marissa Liebling, Legislative Director, at 202-556-5651 or email mliebling@projectvote.org.