

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

PLEASE COMPLETE THE WITNESS INFORMATION FORM BEFORE TESTIFYING

DATE: June 2, 2020

NAME: Kathryn Knue Przywara

ORGANIZATION: _____

(IF APPLICABLE)

POSITION/TITLE: _____

ADDRESS: 8652 Calume Way

CITY: Cincinnati STATE: OH ZIP: 45249

TELEPHONE: (513) 325-5615

ARE YOU REPRESENTING: YOURSELF ORGANIZATION

DO YOU WISH TO TESTIFY ON
LEGISLATION (BILL NUMBER): 680

SPECIFIC ISSUE: _____

SUBJECT MATTER: _____

DO YOU FAVOR _____ OR OPPOSE THE ENACTMENT OF LEGISLATION REGARDING THIS ISSUE?

WILL YOU HAVE A WRITTEN STATEMENT, VISUAL AIDS, OR OTHER MATERIAL TO DISTRIBUTE?

YES NO

(IF YES, PLEASE PROVIDE COPIES TO THE CHAIRMAN OR SECRETARY)

See written statement below.

HOW MUCH TIME WILL YOUR TESTIMONY REQUIRE? Statement provided in writing

PLEASE GIVE A BRIEF STATEMENT OF THE GROUNDS ON WHICH YOU FAVOR OR OPPOSE SUCH ENACTMENT **See Attached.**

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair Stephens, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the State and Local Government Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to present my testimony today. My name is Kathryn Knue Przywara. I was born in Cincinnati, Ohio and I have lived in the Montgomery/Symmes Township area since 1988. I graduated from the University of Notre Dame and the Indiana University (Bloomington) School of Law magna cum laude and Order of the Coif. I am currently licensed to practice law in Ohio and the District of Columbia. My husband and I raised our two sons in Ohio and we are the proud grandparents of two grandsons. I want to make this country a better place for my young grandsons and everything I do it guided by that principle. I am strongly opposed to House Bill 680.

It should be easier, not harder, for Americans to vote. House Bill 680 does just the opposite. Let me highlight several problems with the bill:

1. The bill prohibits the Secretary of State from sending out unsolicited absentee ballots for the November 2020 election, prohibits the state from prepaying postage for the return application and provides for notification only by postcard. All Ohioans should receive a form for requesting an “absentee” ballot with a postage prepaid return envelope and should have the ability to make an absentee ballot request and submit it online. Ohioans should be able to vote by mail for any reason or no reason at all.
2. The bill prohibits in-person early voting and shortens the time to request a ballot and vote by mail. This makes it more difficult for working folks and caregivers to vote. For example, my husband, a structural engineer, travels frequently for work – sometimes at a moment’s notice and sometimes coincident with an election. It should be easier for him to vote.
3. In my opinion, the language of the proposed bill unduly restricts the ability of the Governor and Director of Health from being able to declare a health emergency that would help trigger an all-mail vote for an election. “Emergency” is defined at *dictionary.com* as “a sudden, urgent, usually unexpected occurrence or occasion requiring immediate action.” The Governor and Director of Health should be able to declare an emergency permitting a mail-in vote less than 60 days before an election as long as they act in good faith without the approval of the General Assembly. That’s what an emergency requires.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathryn Knue Przywara