

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

PLEASE COMPLETE THE WITNESS INFORMATION FORM BEFORE TESTIFYING

DATE: June 2, 2020 _____

NAME: Dr. Richard Leavy

ORGANIZATION: _____
(IF APPLICABLE)

POSITION/TITLE: Emeritus Professor of Psychology

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ARE YOU REPRESENTING: YOURSELF ORGANIZATION _____

DO YOU WISH TO TESTIFY ON
LEGISLATION (BILL NUMBER): HB 680
SPECIFIC ISSUE: Voting rights
SUBJECT MATTER: _____

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

PLEASE GIVE A BRIEF STATEMENT OF THE GROUNDS ON WHICH YOU FAVOR OR OPPOSE SUCH ENACTMENT:

I am strongly opposed to HB 680. I would have preferred to testify in person but given the pandemic and my age, 71, I do not feel safe coming in to testify in a small room. I am aware that fewer than one-quarter of eligible Ohio voters participated in the recent primary election. Part of the reason for this distressingly small turnout was the confusion and difficulty that arose from rules concerning absentee voting. HB 680 will make that confusion and difficulty much worse. It prevents the Secretary of State from performing his duties, reduces the availability of early voting, and disenfranchises people who do not have a computer printer because absentee ballot applications are not allowed to be sent digitally. I urge legislators to return to a system where ballot applications are sent out by the Secretary of State to all eligible voters and where postage is paid for by the state, not the individual. In a time of pandemic, pushing more people to choose between voting in person, which may sacrifice their health, or not voting at all is immoral. Disenfranchisement should never be a goal of a legislator. In fact, making voting both safe and easy is the moral duty of every legislator.

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)

HOW MUCH TIME WILL YOUR TESTIMONY REQUIRE? 0