

Communications
Workers of America
AFL-CIO/CLC
district4.cwa-union.org

20525 Center Ridge Road, #700
Cleveland, Ohio 44116-3453
440/333-6363
440/333-1491 FAX

Linda L. Hinton
Vice President – District 4
Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin
lhinton@cwa-union.org



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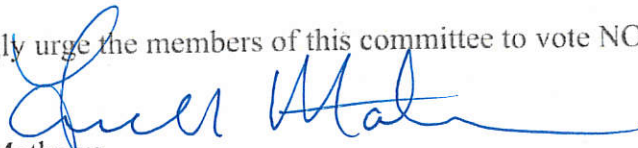
Chairman Wiggim, Vice-Chair Stephens, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the Ohio House State and Local Government Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify, in writing, in opposition to House Bill 680.

My name is Frank Mathews and I am the Administrative Director at Communications Workers of America, District 4, a labor organization representing tens of thousands of active and retired workers across Ohio.

On behalf of my colleagues, leader, and members, I urge a NO vote on House Bill 680. This Bill seeks to make Ohio's already difficult vote-by-mail system even more problematic for voters to utilize and cast their ballots, not only in this year's election but every election thereafter. In this time of unprecedented uncertainty surrounding the Covid-19 global pandemic, this is not the time to muddy the waters and confuse voters even more. Ohio legislators should be moving to make access to the ballot easier and less confusing. This Bill does just the opposite of that.

Also, this Bill would block the Secretary of the State from using federal funding from the CARES Act, as well as Help America Voter Act that would provide voters with paid postage ballots and return envelopes. If the confusing primary, which saw only 22.65% of voter turnout, has taught us anything, it is that we need to be working harder to make the system easier and less complex to vote, not harder. In addition, this Bill would also reduce the amount of early vote time by removing the final three days of in-person early voting, again compounding confusion facing Ohio voters.

I strongly urge the members of this committee to vote NO on House Bill 680.


Frank Mathews
Administrative Director
Communications Workers of America, District 4
email: fmathews@cwa-union.org
office: (440) 333-6363

FM/lb
afl-cio/opeciu2