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## HB 294 Oppositon Testimony

Chair Wilkin, Vice Chair Swearingen, Ranking Member Brown, and members of the Ohio House Government Oversight Committee, my name is Jeff Dieringer representing SEIU District 1199 WV/KY/OH. I am writing in opposition to Substitute House Bill 294 because it restricts Ohioans' access to the ballot box and attempts to solve security problems that simply are not there.

HB294 will limit ballot drop boxes to one location, cut the number of early voting days, and place more restrictions on absentee voting while creating complex and confusing voter ID rules in order to vote early or by mail. These provisions are unnecessary and will significantly hurt Ohioans' ability to access the ballot box.

Proponents will claim that this legislation is needed for security purposes when our elections are already safe and secure. According to our own Secretary of State, Ohio has an amazing record with elections and our enhanced security measures have led to exceedingly low numbers of election fraud cases. This Bill is not going to enhance security for our elections, it is only going to lead to more restricted access to voting, especially among our most marginalized neighbors including black and brown voters, students, voters with disabilities, active-duty military, rural voters and seniors. This Bill will only hurt Ohioans and will not make our elections more secure.

All Ohioans deserve equal access to the ballot box, and it is imperative the General Assembly defend all Ohioans' freedoms and reject HB294.

Sincerely,

Jeff Dieringer  
Campaign Strategist  
SEIU District 1199 WV/KY/OH