

**Opponent Testimony of Deborah Cooper
Regarding House Joint Resolution 6
Presented to the Ohio House Government Oversight Committee
December 7, 2022**

Chair Wilkin, Vice Chair Swearingen, Ranking Member Brown and Members of the Ohio House Government Oversight Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony to this committee on House Joint Resolution 6.

My name is Deborah Cooper and I live in Worthington, OH. I oppose House Joint Resolution 6 because it is an attack on the right of all Ohioans to the citizen-initiated constitutional amendment process.

I am a regular voter who collected signatures to help put the anti-gerrymandering bill on the ballot before the citizen effort was hijacked by Ohio legislators due to the current rule that citizens can only bring initiatives in November, while the legislature can put them on the ballot for a primary election. At present, it is EXTREMELY difficult for citizens to put initiatives on the ballot, which is why it is done so seldom. Current rules already put citizens at a disadvantage, and now the legislature wants to make it even MORE difficult.

I oppose House Joint Resolution 6 because:

- All Ohioans deserve a right to a direct democracy, as enshrined in the 1912 amendments to the Ohio Constitution.
- A 50% vote threshold for constitutional amendments ensures the majority in Ohio prevails in democratic decision making at the ballot, just as it does when the General Assembly passes laws.
- HJR 6 is clearly designed to enshrine the supermajority's power and stop future constitutional amendments that the majority of Ohioans support.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony.

Respectfully,

Deborah Cooper
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