

**Opponent Testimony of Michael Parkinson
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 testify before this committee today on House Joint Resolution 6. My name is Michael Parkinson and I live in Montgomery, northeast suburb of Cincinnati. I am opposed to House Joint Resolution 6—this proposal is an attack on the right of all Ohioans to the citizen-initiated constitutional amendment process.

Our Democracy is of the utmost importance to me because it allows everyone no matter age, race, gender, income, etc. to take part but only when it is healthy, functioning, and open to all. A little about me, I'm a carpenter and builder that just a few years ago decided to get involved in and contribute to our democratic process. I can say from experience that what I and many other people are sold by politicians through political campaigns is not always what is delivered on the job because well we are busy working, raising families, and juggling life that we cannot always monitor the people we vote for. This is why being able to take part in the citizen initiated constitutional amendment process is another way that I can contribute to our State and our Democracy.

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 testify today, and I will answer any questions you may have about my testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

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