



OPPONENT TESTIMONY OF:

Allison Reynolds-Berry, MSW, Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center
215 E 14th Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202

IN OPPOSITION OF:

Sub. HB 294: Enact Ohio Election Security and Modernization Act
House Government Oversight Committee

November 29, 2022

Dear Chairman Wilkin, Vice Chair Swearingen, Ranking Member Brown, and members of the Government Oversight Committee:

My name is Allison Reynolds-Berry and I am the Executive Director of the Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center (IJPC) in Cincinnati. Thank you for the opportunity to submit opponent testimony on Substitute House Bill 294. We ask you to reject this bill because of the potential harm it would cause the immigrant community in Ohio, the lack of necessity to include citizenship status on IDs, and the financial burden it would cause for many.

This bill has the potential to cause significant harm to the immigrant community in Ohio because of the identification of legal status on their ID. There are many systems in which an ID is necessary but legal status is not, such as identification in an emergency, housing access, and job opportunities. Immigrants could be targeted, taken advantage of, or discriminated against.

Currently, non-citizens cannot register to vote and there are extremely low rates of any non-citizens even attempting to vote. The provisions included in the bill are unnecessary.

Finally, the cost of implementing this bill and requiring all current drivers' license holders to get a new ID could be a financial burden to many individuals and would be costly to the state to administer.

I ask you to consider my testimony and reject this legislation which would cause harm to the immigrant community, is unnecessary, and would cause financial burden.

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IJPC Founding Sponsors: Congregation of St. Joseph, Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati, Sisters of Mercy, Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg. **IJPC Sponsors:** Anawim Community, Bellarmine Chapel, Cincinnati Friends Meeting, Cincinnati Mennonite Fellowship, Comboni Missionaries, Congregation of Divine Providence, Dominican Sisters of Hope, Franciscan Sisters of the Poor, Franciscans - St. John the Baptist Province, Glenmary Home Missioners, Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church, Mount Auburn Presbyterian Church, New Jerusalem Community, Sisters of Notre Dame of Covington, St. John Unitarian Universalist Church, Ursulines of Brown County, and Ursulines of Cincinnati.



The Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center (IJPC) educates and advocates for peace, challenges unjust systems, and promotes the creation of a nonviolent society. Founded in 1985, IJPC is supported by faith-based organizations and individuals who work together to educate around justice issues, take collaborative action, and do public witness. IJPC addresses concerns focusing on the death penalty, immigration, human trafficking, and peace and nonviolence.

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