



# Testimony in support of HJR 6

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**Ohio House of Representatives  
Government Oversight Committee**

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Opportunity Solutions Project

Chairman Wilkin, Vice-Chair Swearingen, Ranking Member Brown, and honorable members of the committee, my name is Madeline Malisa and I'm a visiting fellow at the Opportunity Solutions Project, a non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization that works on initiative integrity issues in states across the country. If approved by voters, HJR 6 would require a 60% supermajority vote to amend Ohio's Constitution.

Ohio citizens agree that democracy should not be for sale. The initiative process in Ohio is too easy for out-of-state special interest groups to hijack. When constitutional amendments can be bought by billionaires from California or anywhere else, it isn't about the will of the voter, it's about the wallet of the funder. While citizen-initiated constitutional amendments are important, too often it's about big money bypassing the legislative process altogether to pass their out-of-state agendas by slim majorities.

If approved by voters, HJR 6 would require a 60 percent supermajority to circumvent the legislative process and amend Ohio's Constitution. In making sweeping policy changes that may impact families, seniors, or small businesses, a bare majority to amend the Constitution is too low of a threshold. Ensuring widespread voter support is critical when the Constitution is at stake. Florida enacted a 60% supermajority reform in 2006 and voters in Arizona just approved a version of this reform at the ballot box.<sup>1-2</sup>

HJR 6 will protect Ohio citizens from unelected billionaire groups who want to use the ballot process to bypass the legislature and make Ohio more like California or Washington, D.C. I urge you to consider passing HJR 6 to protect citizen-initiated constitutional amendments and preserve the process for Ohio voters.

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<sup>1</sup> Florida Constitution, Art. XI, Sec. 5.

<sup>2</sup> Arizona Proposition 132 (2022).