



*Ohio House Government Oversight Committee  
HJR 6 — Opponent Testimony  
December 7, 2022*

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Desiree Tims. I serve as president and CEO of Innovation Ohio and Innovation Ohio Education Fund. We partner with a wide range of prominent Ohio organizations representing dozens of policy interests. We also work with diverse communities to share information about important legislation moving through our Statehouse.

Everyone we have spoken with regarding HJR 6 has been vehemently opposed to it. In fact, we recently participated in an event at which over 140 organizations stood unified in opposition to this resolution — and our numbers continue to grow.

This is why I am confident Ohioans will reject HJR 6. The citizens of our state have had the power to collect signatures and amend their constitution with a simple majority vote for 110 years. HJR 6 takes that power away from Ohio citizens. It also gives more power to politicians, who are more likely to have the funding and connections necessary to clear this additional hurdle.

Shifting power from people to politicians is never going to be a popular idea. It will not have public support.

Additionally, HJR 6 would enshrine minority rule in our constitution. Just 41% of voters could block what the majority of voters want. That is not how our state should operate. If a majority of voters head to the polls and vote in favor of a constitutional amendment proposed by their fellow citizens, that amendment should become law.

If HJR 6 passes the legislature and goes to the ballot, it will force proponents to spend time and money on an exhausting fight that they will lose.

Ohioans will agree that it is completely unnecessary. Ohio's ballot initiative process is already incredibly difficult. Citizens must collect hundreds of thousands of signatures to even have a shot at making the ballot. Even then, the voters still have the final say.

Our state constitution is already well protected. The people's right to amend it should not be diminished.

Please consider my testimony — and the testimony of everyone here today. Vote NO on this unpopular, undemocratic resolution.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.