



Center FOR Christian Virtue

Public Policy. Engagement. Education.

To: Chair Wilkin
Vice Chair Swearingen
Ranking Member Brown
House Government Oversight Committee

December 7, 2022

Re: Support for HJR 6

The Center for Christian Virtue supports House Joint Resolution 6, sponsored by Representative Stewart. We believe this proposal strikes an important balance between safeguarding Ohio from deep-pocketed interests wishing to drive personal agendas into Ohio's Constitution, and protecting the fundamental rights of the citizens of Ohio to set the course for Ohio's governance.

As a non-profit organization that has led a successful initiative to amend Ohio's Constitution, we believe the changes to HJR 6 are neither onerous nor unreasonable.

Ohio's Constitution is the most consequential document to our state. It is a foundational document that secures rights and freedoms for all Ohioans today and tomorrow. This is why it is reasonable and proper to raise the threshold to alter it, and make it more difficult for out-of-state special interest groups to buy amendments. For example, Dayton Daily News reported that for the 2018 Issue 1 ballot initiative regarding penalties for low-level drug offenses, *"Backers raised \$9.8 million, plus another \$1.4 million in in-kind support. **Nearly \$6 million of that money came from out of state non-profits, including Chan Zuckerberg Advocacy and the Tides Center. Less than \$4,000 came from inside Ohio.**"*

The Ohio Constitution is not for sale, and HJR 6 strikes the important balance of protecting the integrity of this document, while maintaining the ability of Ohio citizens to directly engage in the policy-making process. For this reason I urge your support of House Joint Resolution 6, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.



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Respectfully,
David Mahan
Policy Director
Center for Christian Virtue

The Center for Christian Virtue (CCV) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that endeavors to create an Ohio where God's blessings of life, family, and religious freedom are treasured, respected, and protected. www.ccv.org -- (513) 733-5775