

**Opponent Testimony of Lis Regula
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 Lis Regula, and I live in Columbus, Ohio. 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.

I grew up in a house where we were proud to be US citizens, even when we did not agree with our country's actions. We were proud because we understood that the democratic process is the way we come to a decision in the US, and that active participation in the democratic process brought more voices to the table and we could learn and grow together. That has not been the case in Ohio, where the 2011 gerrymandered maps and the 2021 unconstitutional maps drawn in spite of 2 citizen measures have left us with a supermajority that does not represent the will of the people. That supermajority is now trying to even further entrench themselves in our state's government and make it harder yet for citizens to have their voice heard. This is not what I was taught as a young boy, and not the Ohio that I want my daughter to see.

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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