



**Opponent Testimony of Kristian Crider, Ohio Student Association  
Substitute House Bill 458  
Senate Local Government and Elections Committee  
December 6, 2022**

Chair Gavarone, Vice Chair O'Brien, Ranking Member Maharath, and members of the Ohio Senate Local Government and Elections Committee,

My name is Kristian Crider and I am a student at Kent State University and a member of the Ohio Student Association. OSA is a statewide grassroots organization with student-led chapters at college campuses across the state. One of the core focuses of our organization is engaging students in the civic process, which includes voter registration, education, and getting out the vote. It is deeply important to us that students and young people be able to make their voices heard through voting.

I write to you today on behalf of the Ohio Student Association and all of our members across Ohio to communicate our staunch opposition to the passage of HB 458. We were appalled to learn that the strict photo ID provisions of SB 320 had been added to HB 458. Two of the harmful provisions we are most concerned about are: 1) requiring a strict photo ID with current address to vote on Election Day or Early In Person, and 2) requiring vote-by-mail voters to provide two forms of ID - both an Ohio driver's license or state ID number AND the last four digits of their social security number.

These unnecessary restrictions will prevent untold thousands of students and young people from being able to exercise their right to vote. Tens of thousands of Ohio voters do not use a photo ID to vote and many Ohioans do not have a photo ID at all. Federal transportation data indicates that close to 17-34% of young people may not have the photo ID SB 458 would require. And if current address is required on the photo ID, even more young people won't meet the requirement. Even if most individuals over the age of 17 would be eligible to receive a free ID from the BMV, they would still need to go there in person, wait in line, etc., to get their photo taken. And what's more, the underlying documents needed to obtain an ID are costly to obtain. A birth certificate costs over \$20 and can take weeks to arrive.

OSA has been doing voter registration and education on college campuses across Ohio for over a decade now, and we know from experience how many barriers are already in place that prevent students and young people from being able to vote. We should be trying to remove barriers to voting; not creating even more.



HB 458 is a voter suppression bill that will disproportionately harm young voters. It will not make our elections any more accessible or secure; it will only leave even more people out of the civic process. The Ohio Student Association calls on committee members to do the right thing for Ohio's students and all of its voters and vote no on HB 458.

Sincerely,  
Kristian Crider  
Ohio Student Association  
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