

HJR 1

Opponent Testimony

April 19, 2023

Chair Plummer, Vice Chair Hillyer, Ranking Member Mohamed, and Members of the House Constitutional Resolutions Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Deborah Kuhn Thompson, a retired speech language pathologist. I strongly oppose this resolution. It restricts the rights of Ohioans to have their voices heard. A majority of voters should decide, not a minority.

The threshold currently in place has worked for decades and is historically what democracy has held as precedent. Since 1912, only 19 out of 71 citizen initiated constitutional amendments have passed in Ohio. So why is this necessary? And how is it democratic that ONE county could uphold the entire state with insufficient signatures during an initiative?

Sadly, because a few legislators are not happy with an upcoming ballot issue, they have decided that it is okay to ignore their recent law that stopped August elections. This is problematic in many ways. They can decide to change the rules whenever they want? Despite their own passed legislation? Despite what their constituents are telling them?

LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE in November. Let the MAJORITY decide.