

Opposition Testimony; House Joint Resolution 1

I ask the members of the Ohio General Assembly to oppose House Joint Resolution 1 on the same democratic principle that the sponsors are using to advance this harmful constitutional amendment - majority rule. During his first inaugural address, Abraham Lincoln said, "The rule of a minority, as a permanent arrangement, is wholly inadmissible; so that, rejecting the majority principle, anarchy or despotism in some form is all that is left."

Article I, Section 2 of the Ohio Constitution is clear and unambiguous "All political power is inherent in the people. Government is instituted for their equal protection and benefit, and they have the right to alter, reform, or abolish the same, whenever they may deem it necessary". If enacted, HJR 1 will strip political power from the people of Ohio in favor of minority rule by granting a minority of 40% plus one Ohioan veto power over the rights of the majority of Ohioans to alter or reform government when they deem it necessary.

It is no secret that political power in Ohio is held by members of the Republican Party. I ask that these same members of the Party of Lincoln defend the principle of majority rule by opposing HJR 1. A principle for which Lincoln himself, and so many others, have laid down their lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MVP', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael V. Pellegrino
Ohio Citizen