

April 19, 2023

Subject: Opposition testimony to House Joint Resolution 1

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

On behalf of the National Association of Social Workers- Ohio Chapter I am here to urge you to oppose House Joint Resolution 1. In the NASW Code of Ethics for social workers, self-determination is a core value of our profession. Changing the majority threshold for a constitutional amendment to 60% removes the ability for Ohioans to self-determine what is in their best interest. All people, regardless of political belief, should have the same ability to make changes to the state constitution and policy. The history of ballot initiatives shows how the populace of Ohio has been able to self-determine what is in our collective interests outside of the legislature. Ballot initiatives are a key part to keeping state policy within the will of the population. Furthermore, the removal of the ten-day cure period and the stricter requirements for signatures from every county will make the ballot initiative process nearly impossible.

Social workers believe in the sanctity of voting, and we urge the Ohio General Assembly to take any step possible to create more accessibility for our clients and communities to vote. House Joint Resolution 1 does the opposite; eroding democracy and ability for the average person in Ohio to have a voice.

Please vote no on House Joint Resolution 1 to protect Ohioans ability to self-determine.

Sincerely,

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