

I have never before submitted testimony on legislation, though I have written letters, but I am so appalled by HJR1 (and the similar Senate resolution SJR2) that I am compelled to do so.

I see HJR1 as a direct attack on my rights as a citizen of Ohio, and the rights of all citizens, to have a say in decisions that impact my/our lives. HJR1 hands over power to a minority of voters. It will allow 40% plus 1 of Ohio residents to decide **for 60% of us** how we shall be governed. This is NOT democracy.

Additionally, this legislation will increase the power special interests have to block initiatives that the majority of the people of Ohio want/believe are in our best interests, as it will take fewer votes (and less dollars out of their pockets) to accomplish changes they seek. We have already seen the damage special interests can do/have done in our State.

Further, Ohio is currently gerrymandered to give one party a significant and unfair advantage. Add to that the fact that the Supreme Court is now in the hands of that same party, and this leaves citizen initiatives as the sole means a majority of citizens will have to counter legislation that is not in our collective best interests.

Please, please, please defeat this ill-conceived legislation. Protect the rights of the majority. Vote against HJR1 and keep democracy alive in Ohio.