

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: April 17, 2023

Name: Benita Kahn

Are you representing: Yourself Organization

Organization (If Applicable):

Position/Title:

Address: 100 N. Stanwood Rd.

City: Bexley State: Ohio Zip: 43209

Best Contact Telephone: 614-477-1234 Email: benitakahn86@gmail.com

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes No

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): House Joint Resolution 1

Specific Issue: Opposed to anything that makes it harder for voters to amend the Ohio Constitution.

Are you testifying as a: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes No

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? 5 minutes

Please provide a brief statement on your position: I have lived in Ohio for a total of 61 years, including 33 years practicing law in Ohio. Similar to Theodore Roosevelt, I am appalled by and I protest actions proposed by House Joint Resolution 1 to thwart, rather than secure, the absolute right of the people to rule themselves. It is significant that House Joint Resolution 1 would take away a right that has existed for over 100 years by making it significantly more difficult, if not impossible, to amend the Ohio Constitution. Legislatively referred constitutional amendments have never proposed an amendment

that so limits a right of Ohio voters that it effectively takes away Ohio voters' right to amend the Ohio Constitution. And, House Joint Resolution 1 uses a ploy of an August special election. The last and only other time the state legislature referred a measure to amend the Constitution to the ballot for an August special election was 1926. In the August 2022 primary, only 8% of Ohio registered voters came out to vote. Certainly, if there is to be an amendment to the Ohio Constitution that limits the right of Ohio voters to amend the Ohio Constitution, 8% is not the way this should be done. I strongly protest House Joint Resolution 1.

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.