April 19th Testimony HJR1 - Opponent

Chair: Rep. Phil Plummer

Testinfing - Julia Cattaneo

Chair and Committee Members thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Julia Cattaneo. I live in Columbus Ohio and have family members in Toledo, Dayton, Cincinnati, as well as other communities in this state. Politically my family includes beliefs and opinions from both sides of the aisles. What we all agree on is Democracy and that our votes should count, one person, one vote.

SJR2 and HJR1 are written to take away one person, one vote, to take away citizens' rights to have a check and balance on our legislators, and shift the power from a simple majority to a minority to control power. The supporters of SJR2 and HJR1 claim they are "protecting" our Constitution. From Sec. of State LaRose's Twitter account quoting Rep. Stewart "For far too long, Ohio's Constitution has been exploited by outside groups and special interests seeking to alter our governing document to achieve their own political ends" I was at the hearing when Rep. Stewart expressed these same thoughts as well as the SJR2 hearing with others repeating the same beliefs. YET, there is nothing in SJR2 or HJR1 that has anything written to improve the transparency of funding and groups involved in constitutional amendments. These resolutions do nothing BUT take away the power of Ohio voters to amend their constitution.

I am familiar with the process to amend our constitution. There are already built-in safeguards and protections. So the real purpose of SJR2 and HJR1 and the timing of these resolutions is truly suspect. Please stop trying to GASLIGHT Ohio voters. These resolutions are not targeting "outside money or interest groups". SJR2 and HJR1 are targeting Ohioans' rights to one person one vote, our democracy, and the power of our voices to be heard. A simple majority, not 60%, is a true representation of Ohio voters.

Vote no on HJR1, it is costly, unnecessary, unpopular, and undemocratic.

Thank you,
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