

Chairman Plummer, Vice Chairman Hillyer, Ranking Member Mohamed and members of the House Constitutional Resolutions Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today in staunch opposition to HJR1, a resolution clearly designed to extinguish the voices of the people.

This resolution requests a Republican legislature exemption from the law (HB 458), passed by Republicans at the end of 2022 to eliminate August elections. Your argument for this law, that it uses \$20M of Ohio taxpayer funds to run a special election, is still valid. Yet you have requested it for one blatant reason: to silence the people of Ohio. You see that we still have a collective bi-partisan voice through the 111 year old process for amending our constitution, in spite of the hideous rigged unconstitutional maps you imposed on us. So you demand to change the rules through that very same process to stop us and expect us to pay for it!

I must advise Republicans behind this resolution, HJR1 smells as bad to the public and is just as unpopular as our reproductive freedom amendment is popular. We tell every voter who signs the petition about this resolution to subvert democracy. My experience in the 3 counties near me is that most voters know about your intended naked power grab and they hate it. Some comments from them about it are NSFW. You may finally be making it clear to your own supporters that you are proudly anti-democracy. The 60 year old white male voter who signed yesterday in Powell, told us he is a lifelong Republican, but you have “gone too far with abortion” he knows “it hurts women” and he drove to us yesterday to sign. It was the same from the Republican woman in Marysville who signed my petition Friday. We will continue to collect signatures from your Republican constituents by the hundreds every week. They are finally realizing what we have known for a long time, that what you’re doing is not democracy, it’s treading all over it.

In 1912, President Theodore Roosevelt said in Ohio: “I protest against any theory that would make the constitution a means of thwarting instead of securing the absolute right of the people to rule themselves.”
I protest it too.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I ask you to vote AGAINST HJR1 and listen to the people instead of working to stifle them to enforce an unpopular agenda.