

**Opponent Testimony of Rita S. Haider
Regarding House Joint Resolution 1
Presented to the Ohio House Constitutional Resolutions Committee**

Chair Plummer, Vice Chair Hudson Hillyer, Ranking Member Mohamed and Members of the Ohio House Constitutional Resolutions Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony to this committee regarding House Joint Resolution 1. My name is Rita S. Haider, and I live at 3001 Sunset Drive, Columbus, OH 43202. I am opposed to House Joint Resolution 1—this proposal is an attack on the right of all Ohioans to the citizen-initiated constitutional amendment process.

Dear Members of the Ohio House,

I am writing to express my opposition to House Joint Resolution 1 (HJR 1) and its related bill, HB 144. As an Ohioan who values the principles of direct democracy and majority rule in decision making, I believe these bills are detrimental to our democratic process and the rights of Ohioans.

The 1912 amendments to the Ohio Constitution granted Ohioans the right to direct democracy, which ensures that citizens have a say in important issues that affect their lives. The 50% vote threshold for constitutional amendments is an essential component of this process, as it ensures that the majority in Ohio prevails in democratic decision making at the ballot, just as it does when the General Assembly passes laws.

However, HJR 1 is clearly designed to enshrine the supermajority's power and stop future constitutional amendments that the majority of Ohioans support. This is an affront to the democratic principles upon which our state was founded.

Furthermore, HB 144 proposes an August Special Election this year, only for a ballot initiative, which is a waste of taxpayer resources. Any change to the Ohio Constitution should be on the ballot during an election when the most Ohioans show up to vote, such as a General Election.

I urge you to reconsider the potential impact of HJR 1 and HB 144 on Ohio's democratic process and the rights of Ohioans. I strongly oppose these bills and urge you to vote against them.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita S. Haider
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