



**OPPONENT TESTIMONY OF:**

Jeniece L. Brock  
1463 Apple Court

**NOT IN SUPPORT OF:**

H.J.R. No. 1 Rep. Stewart require 60% vote to approve any constitutional amendment  
Constitutional Resolutions Committee

**[Akron, Ohio, 4-18-23]** — Greetings Chair Plummer, Vice Chair Hillyer, Ranking Member Mohamed, and members of the Constitution Resolutions Committee. My name is Jeniece Brock, my pronouns are She/Her. I am a Health Scientist and the Policy & Advocacy Director for the Ohio Organizing Collaborative. The Ohio Organizing Collaborative (OOC) is a grassroots people-centered power organization. We unite base-building community organizing groups, student associations and faith organizations, with labor unions, and policy institutes throughout Ohio. On behalf of myself, the OOC and its membership, this testimony is offered in opposition of H.J.R. No. 1 which would require a 60% vote to approve any constitutional amendment.

House Joint Resolution One is a direct attack on our democracy. For over one hundred years, Ohioans from across the political spectrum have utilized the right to amend our constitution through the petition process. To require a 60% vote to approve a constitutional amendment, undermines the sacred principle of 'one person one vote (50% +1)'. This means that a small number of voters (41%) could block initiatives that a majority of Ohio voters support.

We believe that all Ohioans should have the right to direct democracy and the ability to equitably participate in the political process, but H.J.R. No.1 threatens that freedom. This proposal cripples our democracy by preventing Ohioans from making decisions about their lives and communities through citizen ballot initiatives. It is unfair, undemocratic, unpopular, unnecessary, and disproportionately affects Black, brown, and low-income communities; making a process that is already rigorous, even harder.

In closing, we are asking for the Ohio Constitution to be upheld which allows our voices to be heard by a simple majority (50% +1). We are urging the members of the Constitutional Resolutions Committee to vote no on H.J.R. No. 1, and any proposal that would take power away from voters and rigs the system against everyday Ohioans.

Thank you,  
Jeniece L. Brock, MSHS (She/Her)  
Policy & Advocacy Director  
Ohio Organizing Collaborative