

**Opposition Testimony for HB 144  
Ohio House Oversight Committee  
Thursday, April 27, 2023  
Joshua Ferry**

**Student at Cleveland State University**

Chair Peterson, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking member Forhan, and members of the committee

Thank you for taking the time to hear my testimony and perspective on this bill. My name is Joshua Ferry. I am a student at Cleveland State and a resident of Lakewood and am writing in opposition of HB 144

I'm expressing my opposition towards this bill because it's a waste of tax dollar money, and is very counterintuitive.

On January 6, 2023 Gov. DeWine signed HB 458, one of the key parts of that bill was to eliminate August elections, because traditionally, nobody shows up at August elections. However, by reversing course, you're lying to the citizens of Ohio, who see this bill as unpopular. While there has been no formal poll conducted, based on the number of opponent:proponent testimony, this idea seems pretty unpopular. All previous Ohio governors—both Democrat and Republican—have also spoken their opposition to this bill.

By conducting an August election you're also wasting \$20 million coming from taxpayers. Rather than the election, let me, as a taxpayer, give you some alternatives that the \$20 million can be used for.

1). Help vulnerable communities get the essential services they deserve

This would include funding for more social services, such as on-site psychologists that accompany police officers and quicker response times to fire, EMS and Police. This would include both rural communities, as well as urban communities

2). Making it easier for people to vote and get the information necessary to vote

-One of the things HB 458 did was limit the types of IDs one can show at the voter booths, to make it easier for somebody to obtain an ID, there should be more funding that will make it

easier to make those same vulnerable communities to obtain an ID to vote, such as making it easier to get the necessary paperwork they deserve.

### 3). More funding for education

Rather it be more funding for K-12 school districts (ex: more bussing, hiring more counselors, or making cities less segregated) or Higher education (making college more affordable, especially for the most vulnerable, such as black and Latino communities) education can be funded in so many ways.

### 4). More funding for healthcare

Funding for healthcare may come in a variety of way

#### 1). The cost of any visit itself:

For many vulnerable communities it's a risk for even a basic check up

-You either risk a bill that's in the \$100s, or sometimes \$1000s, or you put yourself or your family at risk of dying. Better funding for healthcare across the state could save the lives of thousands of Ohioans.

2). Next is the mobilization of healthcare. In both rural and urban communities, there are problems when it comes to healthcare mobilization. Rural communities tend to be far from a hospital, clinic, or emergency room, while those in urban communities tend to lack adequate transportation to get there. Mobilizing healthcare would help both rural and urban communities in Ohio

Thank you for taking the time to read this, and any feedback you may give,

Joshua Ferry

If you have any followup questions, please don't hesitate to reach out at [joshf0904@gmail.com](mailto:joshf0904@gmail.com), if there is anything you would like me to clarify.