

April 27th Testimony SB92 - room 313 - Opponent

Chair: Rep. Peterson

Testinfig - Julia Cattaneo

Chair and Committee Members thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Julia Cattaneo, I live in Columbus. I was denied my voice being heard on April 19th, in opposition to HJR1. Now this committee is moving toward taking many more Ohioan's voices away by looking to approve SB92. If SB92 is approved Ohioans would be forced to vote on changes to their Constitution in a low turnout August Special. This would be a direct attack on democracy and Ohioans' voices.

HJR1 is 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 HJR1 claim they are "protecting" our Ohio Constitution from "outside groups and special interests seeking to alter our governing document to achieve their own political ends" YET, there is nothing in HJR1 that has anything written to improve the transparency of funding and groups involved in constitutional amendments. HJR1 does nothing BUT take away the power of Ohio voters to amend their constitution. HJR1 does not deter outside money but increases the need for outside money to meet the requirements to get an amendment on the ballot and passed.

Now SB92 is being pushed so power-hungry legislators will force an August Special election to hush citizens' voices. Historically August Special Elections have an extremely low voter turnout. This is not the time or way to get a real democratic vote on an issue that changes how Ohians amend their Constitution.

So what is the rush to put these changes into effect? As with the real purpose of SJR2 and HJR1, the timing is truly suspect. Please stop GASLIGHTING Ohio voters. This is not about "outside money or interest groups". This is a move targeting Ohioans' rights to one person one vote, our democracy, and the power of our voices to be heard. If this was truly about wanting to protect our Constitution, Ohio citizens, and Democracy, our legislators would not be rushing the vote, or hiding it in an expensive waste of tax-dollar August Special Election. They would want a vote at a time when the majority of Ohioans vote, in November.

In reality, this is our legislators using our tax dollars to take away our right to have a fair voice in our democracy. Those that support HJR1 and SB92 in truth do not believe in Ohio citizens or their rights to be heard. It seems these supporters are against democracy itself.

Vote no on SB92 and HJR1, They are costly, unnecessary, unpopular, and undemocratic.

Thank you,
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