



OPPONENT TESTIMONY OF:

Jeniece L. Brock
1463 Apple Court

NOT IN SUPPORT OF:

S.B. 92/H.B.144 Allow Special Election to be held in August for certain purposes
Government Oversight Committee

[Akron, Ohio, 4-27-23] — Greetings Chair Peterson, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Forhan and members of the Government Oversight 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 to S.B. 92/H.B.144 which would allow a Special Election to be held in August.

Senate Bill 92 & House Bill 144 are direct attacks 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. Senate Bill 92 & House Bill 144 seek to undermine the already rigorous process we have for constitutional amendments and disenfranchises Ohio voters.

Requiring a 60% vote to approve a constitutional amendment, undermines the sacred principle of 'one person one vote (50% +1)', allowing a small number of voters (41%) to block initiatives that a majority of Ohio voters support. 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. We believe that all Ohioans should have the right to direct democracy and the ability to equitably participate in the political process, but Senate Bill 92 & House Bill 144, threatens that freedom.

We are asking for the Ohio Constitution to be upheld which allows our voices to be heard by a simple majority, and we are urging the members of the Government Oversight Committee to vote no on Senate Bill 92 & House Bill 144, and any proposal that would take power away from voters and rig the system against everyday Ohioans.

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