

Opponent Testimony by Charlesretta Wynn on Senate Bill 158
Government Oversight Committee
October 10th, 2023

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to present opponent testimony on SB 158. My name is Charlesretta Wynn and I am writing to oppose the passage of Senate Bill 158.

Cleveland voters deserve their right to vote on Issue 38 in November. Just like Clevelanders, voters in every municipality in Ohio deserve the opportunity to vote on local, citizen-led ballot initiatives. SB 158 infringes on that right.

My name is Charlesretta Wynn, I been living in the City of Cleveland all my life and I believe in issue 38. We have an opportunity to do something great with issue 38. I don't believe that the house should be able to stop the movement of the people or hard working residents such as myself. While we were canvassing to put this issue on the Ballot I met residents in practically every community who would be affected by the issue. They all are saying the same thing we are not seeing any money spent in our neighborhoods even though we are being taxed on our property and everything we purchase.

We are tired of being left out of the conversation when it comes to improving and revitalizing our communities. City Hall is constantly fixing up downtown and have all Kind of money for Big Business and Stadiums. We want to work with City Hall to resolve the issue but they would rather spend tax money to close the voices of the people .They are not willing to work with residents who put them in office. Once elected it seems as if most work for big businesses and corporations that don't care about the community needs or improvements we are seeing lots of Gentrification in our neighborhoods. The people who reside in these communities were affected by the redlining and have not recovered do to no access to community funds . We need your help to proceed with this important needed change so that

Our children and Elderly can have prosperous neighborhoods that they will be proud to live in or represent.

I know that house Bill 158 is bad for the City of Cleveland. We can not be silenced when we see things that are not beneficial for our City or the residents who reside here. I have worked in the community for a total of 33 years . I know the blight that we are faced with in our community from lived experience. Issue 38 will be a tool that we can use to improve our community and improve Civic

Engagement. Our youth are the future we need to get them involved with politics and keep them involved in a positive way. Our Elderly has many years of Wisdom ,we need to allow them to use their skills to teach ,improve and bridge the Gaps that we are faced with today. The Elderly people who I spoke with are excited and so are the youth but we are faced with many oppositions. We need you to be on the side of the 32 Communities and residents that resides in our impoverished Communities .

Sincerely in need of your Help to make this change
Charlesretta Wynn