



March 28, 2023

Dear Members of the Senate General Government Committee:

My name is Peter Range and I am the Chief Executive Officer of Ohio Right to Life. I am writing today in support of Senate Joint Resolution 2, The Ohio Constitution Protection Amendment, which would require an amendment to receive at least 60% of the vote of electors to become part of the Ohio Constitution.

At Ohio Right to Life we support SJR 2 for three main reasons, including:

First, our nation recognizes and has established that amending our national Constitution is not an easy process, nor should it be. Amending the U.S. Constitution requires a supermajority which is two-thirds of the vote in both legislative chambers and three-fourths of the state legislatures. Our Founders understood that our foundational charter, which details our rights, needed to be protected from the emotions of a simple majority. Our Ohio Constitution is our state's founding document and should be treated with similar respect. It should not be easy to change our state constitution with a simple majority (50% plus one).

Secondly, because the current law permits that our constitution can be changed with a simple majority (50% plus one), it is subject to out-of-state special interest groups being able to supersede the law established through the people's elected representatives. Ohioans should be able to determine for themselves what type of state they would like to live in, but the power of the purse enables out-of-state special interest groups to dictate policy with just one election.

Thirdly, at the tip of the spear this year there is an initiative that could alter the direction of Ohio for years to come. Through a simple majority, parental rights will be eliminated in protecting teenage girls from the abortion procedure, tens of thousands of babies will be starved to death or dismembered in perpetuity here in Ohio, and the state will not be permitted to enact any health and safety standards to protect women. In short, thousands of lives are on the line, the rights of all parents are on the line, and the health and safety of women, of mothers, are on the line.

In short, Ohio Right to Life urges the passage of SJR 2 because it will protect Ohio's Constitution, keep our founding document safe from out-of-state special interest groups, and finally because it will allow the state of Ohio to fulfill its primary responsibility, to protect its citizenry and future generations.

God's grace to you all,

Peter Range

CEO, Ohio Right to Life

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