

Craig
2777 E 126th St
Cleveland, OH 44120

September 24, 2023

Dear Chairman Rulli and Ranking Member DeMora,

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 158. My name is Craig Ickler and I am writing to oppose the passage of Senate Bill 158, a law that would prohibit participatory budgeting in Ohio.

Cleveland voters deserve the opportunity to vote on Issue 38 in Cleveland. SB 158 is a blatant attempt to strip Clevelanders of their ability to decide for themselves on the question of creating a People's Budget. The process of participatory budgeting has been used in hundreds of cities around the United States as a form of civic education and engagement for residents to work with elected officials and city government to determine how their taxpayer dollars are spent.

I am excited to utilize participatory budgeting in my neighborhood to address issues the city government as it stands now will not. People deserve to have a voice about how their community is run.

SB 158 prevent localities from addressing local problems that are in the jurisdiction of a home rule community. I strongly oppose SB 158, and would be happy to speak with any members of the committee in more details about our opposition.

Sincerely,

Craig Ickler