



STATE SENATOR BILL DEMORA 25th District

Chair Rulli, Vice Chair Schuring, and members of the Senate General Government committee, thank you for allowing me to testify in support of Senate Bill 173.

This bill will update public records law to designate election workers as public service workers. A public service worker is a classification of public employees who works in a potentially high-risk field. For their protection, their residential and familial information is redacted from any records before they are released.

Other examples of Public service workers include peace officers, firefighters, EMTs, prosecuting and assistant prosecuting attorneys, county or multicounty corrections employees, mental health evaluation providers, judges, and magistrates, and federal law enforcement officers. This bill will simply add our election workers to this list.

This legislation arises from my trip to the National Conference of State Legislators, where I had a meeting that walked about all of the threats that election workers were receiving at home and at the office. Election workers were getting death threats sent to their addresses and were being harassed. That is simply unacceptable, so this bill is a simple, non-controversial change that will add election workers to a pre-existing program that will protect them from malicious actors that would wish harm upon them. There is no cost attached to this bill; there is very little extra work that would be required. It is simply adding election workers to this list.

Our election workers are vital to the functioning of our state, and I think this is the minimum that we can do to ensure that they can do their job. Thank you, and I would be happy to answer any questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William P. DeMora".

Senator William P. DeMora
Ohio Senate District 25