

November 18, 2025

Chair Ray, Vice Chair LaRe, Ranking Member Brent, and members of the House General Government Committee,

Thank you for the chance to testify today. My name is Julia Cattaneo, and I live in Columbus. I care deeply about democracy and believe every eligible voter deserves to be heard. That's why I'm so troubled by how many recent legislative actions have made it harder for Ohioans to vote—and why I'm strongly against SB 293.

Ohio's own Secretary of State and Governor have said over and over that our elections are secure, accurate, and run with almost no violations. Even so, this legislature keeps redrawing voting maps, restricting ballot access, and making it tougher to vote. SB 293 is part of that pattern, and it hits hardest for the people who already have the most trouble—people with disabilities, folks who don't have easy transportation, and those juggling jobs and families.

Speaking personally, I've had to rely on an absentee ballot more than once. I live with chronic pain, which comes and goes, and sometimes makes it impossible to wait in long lines at the polls. Absentee voting—whether by mail or drop box—is sometimes my only path to casting a ballot. I never know when my condition will flare up, which means I have to be ready to vote absentee at the last minute. That's why reliable drop boxes and extended mail times matter. Mail isn't getting any faster—and I shouldn't lose my vote because of it.

So I'm asking you to listen—not just to me, but to everyone in Ohio who could be silenced by this bill. Please respect Ohio voters. Vote NO on SB 293. Thank you for your time and for hearing my story.

Sincerely,



Julia Cattaneo

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