

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Blackshear and members of the Senate General Government Committee.

My name is Andrew Kohn, and I am a voter and resident of Cuyahoga County.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and express my opposition to SB 153.

There is no need to enact Senate Bill 153.

Secretary of State Frank LaRose has consistently emphasized the security and integrity of Ohio's elections. He has stated that Ohio's elections are "honest and accurate."

Governor Mike DeWine has already signaled he does not want to sign any more GOP-proposed bills that make it harder to vote. At a Columbus Metropolitan Club Forum held on May 8 Governor DeWine commented that he was done with legislation to change the voting laws.

"The burden of proof is on those who say we need to change the law. When I signed the last reform bill, I said, as far as I was concerned, we were done."

Among many other things, Senate Bill 153 will make it very hard for high school students to register to vote. I regularly visit high schools to help register high school students. This is the best place to find 17- and 18-year-old students before they graduate and go out into the world – college, work, military. If we miss them at their high schools, they may not get a chance to register and vote. If SB 153 is enacted, we may lose an entire generation of voters in Ohio.

Under the proposed law the students would need to prove they are citizens and would have to do this at a local Board of Elections or possibly at a BMV office in person. This adds costs and burdens that have not been necessary. Will they have passports? Will they be able to get a copy of their birth certificates? Will they have the time to go to the Board of Elections with the necessary documents? We need young citizens of Ohio to engage and to participate in our elections. In many respects this law will negatively impact participation from this important segment of our community.

Please Vote No on Senate Bill 153.

Thank you for your time.

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