

Written Testimony on SB 153 – Submitted to the Senate General Government Committee

Submitted by: Lachandra B. Baker

Date: May 25, 2025

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

My name is Lachandra B. Baker, and I am the founder and Chief Experience Officer of LBB Edutainment, an organization committed to workplace inclusion, civic engagement, and the empowerment of historically underrepresented voices. I am also a community leader, entrepreneur, wife, mother, and caregiver who has called Ohio home for over two decades.

I'm submitting this written testimony to urge you with clarity, conviction, and urgency to VOTE NO on Senate Bill 153.

This bill is not about election security—it is about voter suppression. It is not about protecting democracy—it is about criminalizing it.

I come from a long line of people who believed in democracy enough to fight for it. My mother lived through the Civil Rights Movement. I've spent my life as an advocate for justice and civic participation—registering voters, educating communities, and standing up for those silenced by systemic barriers. Through my work as a fellow with the Center for Artistic Activism, I teach others how to use their voice to make a difference. SB 153 directly undermines everything I—and so many others—have worked for.

This bill would disenfranchise thousands of eligible voters through unnecessary “proof of citizenship” requirements and ID-matching bureaucracy. From married women with name changes to students, to the elderly, to those without easy access to the BMV—this bill targets the very people most in need of representation.

Even more chilling, it punishes community engagement. Under SB 153, voter registration drives would vanish. Petition circulators could face prosecution. Provisional ballots would multiply. Drop boxes? Gone. And Boards of Elections—already stretched—would be buried under unfunded mandates.

This is not leadership. This is legislation designed to scare, discourage, and confuse the electorate.

As someone deeply embedded in the fabric of Ohio communities, I can tell you: this bill does not reflect who we are or what we stand for.

Elected officials are chosen to represent people—not parties, not political donors, not fear. Real representation means protecting access to the ballot, not building walls around it.

SB 153 is dangerous. It's unnecessary. And it's un-American.

I urge you—do what is right for the people of Ohio. Reject this bill. Restore trust. Protect democracy.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony. I welcome any questions or follow-up from the committee.

Sincerely,

Lachandra B. Baker

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Founder & Chief Experience Officer, LBB Edutainment

lachandra@lbbedutainment.com

614.572.5735