

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

My name is Katie McKibben. Both Senator Gavarone and I live near Bowling Green, which is also home to almost 20,000 university students. I am testifying today to emphasize the negative impact Senate Bill 153 will have on student voters.

For many students, attending college means moving to a new community and deciding which belongings to pack. Birth certificates and passports are usually not needed for college and are typically left behind. If Senate Bill 153 becomes law, these students won't have access to the documents they need to register to vote.

After arriving on campus, students have about a month to register for the November election. Students will be preoccupied with settling into a new home and resolving the usual start-of-semester problems. Some students remember to register when they encounter voter registration teams on campus. Senate Bill 153 eliminates this convenient opportunity, because citizenship documents must be taken to the Board of Elections.

Unless their current ID is about to expire, students also won't be thinking about renewing their driver's license. This will be a problem when they go to vote, as this bill requires the address on the ID to match the one on the voter registration. Some students change their residence almost every year and will need a new ID each time. You are forcing students to waste time and money renewing IDs that are still valid.

Voting by mail might be an option, but that also poses problems such as locating postage stamps and finding transportation to the ballot drop box. SB 153 eliminates drop boxes, posing yet another barrier to voting.

Secretary of State LaRose assures us that Ohio's elections are among the most secure and successful in the nation. How can you justify making it so much harder for our next generation of leaders to participate in the democratic process? I urge you to vote NO on Senate Bill 153.

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