

Chair Roegner, Vice-Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Blackshear, and members of the General Government Committee, my name is Denise Riley. Thank you for hearing me today. I am a nurse, a Republican, and a **poll worker**. I am also the Executive Director of Rank The Vote Ohio, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to educating the public about the benefits of Ranked Choice Voting (RCV). **And I oppose SB153**

Working the polls is a stressful job. We try to always always do the right thing. When the rules change frequently, it becomes **more difficult** to do the job correctly. When the rules change frequently without financial support for training and staff, the job becomes outrageous. SB153 *will* increase the number of provisional ballots exponentially. This not only increases the work at the polls, but also the work of the boards of elections after the election. A critical time when they are counting and certifying ballots.

SB 153 will make it very difficult for women and people with financial hardships to register to vote! All to keep a statistically insignificant number of people from voting. Compared to the tens of thousands of people who may be unable to cast a ballot. In America, we prize our democracy. We the people. **We are not the people if only a chosen few have a voice in our government.**

This is highly likely the reason for the increase in number of ballot initiatives over the last few years. Something **also targeted in this sweeping and deeply harmful bill**. In general, the volunteers at my organization have day jobs. They have kids to take to practice and games. In short, they have a life outside of Rank The Vote Ohio. I am deeply grateful for everything they can and do do for us. But they are not enough! We generate donations to pay for a handful of organizers to help our chapters run and do outreach. SB 153 attempts to **intimidate** civically active Ohioans, like **those in my organization**, by threatening them with politically motivated investigations. The bill enacts onerous/nit-picky new requirements that will make it harder to successfully gather enough signatures for a ballot initiative and directly threatens me as an organizer and executive director of my organization.

The people spoke on August 1st of 2023 when they overwhelmingly voted against making ballot initiatives harder. By including this in your bill, you are going **against the will of the people**. You are supposed to **represent us**. Do your job and represent the will of the majority of Ohioans and reject this bill.

Thank you for hearing me today.