

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

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony on SB 153 today. My name is Aja Bettencourt-McCarthy. I am a concerned citizen from Cincinnati, OH.

I'm here to strongly urge the committee to reject SB 153 and its companion HB 233.

As someone with a hyphenated last name, I am directly impacted by the provisions in this bill. Because of the length of my name, it is frequently shortened on official forms and documents. If enacted, this bill might limit my right to vote.

In addition, I am considering getting married, but fear that if I do and choose to take my husband's last name, the provisions in this bill would prevent me from participating in important upcoming elections.

Ensuring that voting is easy for all eligible Ohioans should be this committee's top priority, unfortunately this bill would effectively disenfranchise tens of thousands of eligible Ohio voters and disproportionately hurt women like me.

I ask you to consider my testimony and *consider* the potentially disastrous consequences of this bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Aja Bettencourt-McCarthy