

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Katherine Rivet. I am a married citizen of Ohio currently living in Vermilion. For many years after college I lived and worked in other states, but I convinced my husband to move back to Ohio with me in 2015 because I wanted to come home. But it is potential legislation like SB153 that make me seriously want to reconsider that decision and take my family and my tax dollars elsewhere.

I would like to express my grave concerns about SB 153 and its companion HB 233.

I have participated in many voter registration drives over the years and performed my civic duty as a poll worker for multiple elections. This legislation is unnecessary and will prevent many lawful citizens from being able to register to vote efficiently and effectively.

If you truly want to live in a democracy, then providing access and permission to vote to our citizens should be paramount. Throwing in hurdles which will make it disproportionately harder for lower income citizens, married women, and others to register to vote or update their voter registration, is decidedly undemocratic. Requiring any woman to have to hunt down or pay for a new marriage license that will prove her identity which has already been proven on her government issued ID, is the definition of throwing in a pointless hurdle. I say pointless because the Ohio Secretary of State could only find that possibly 0.0005% of all votes cast in 2020 may have been cases of fraud. That is not a number of which to base massively disruptive legislation.

I ask you to consider my testimony and take more time to speak with local election officials about this bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Katherine Rivet
2001 N. Ridge Road
Vermilion, OH 44089