

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

Thank you for hearing my testimony today. My name is Mary Klain, I am a lifelong Ohio resident and citizen who is very concerned about the legislation working its way through the Statehouse.

Today, I'm writing to express my grave concerns about SB 153 and its companion HB 233.

In this latest attempt to rewrite Ohio's election laws, SB153 is plain and simply Ohio's version of the federal SAVE Act. This bill would make it harder for eligible Ohioans to register and vote because it would severely limit *where* Ohioans can register or update their voter registration. Additionally, voters would be forced to vote provisionally if their ID does not *exactly* match their voter file. Some common examples of this scenario are:

- The Voter's middle initial is listed on their voter registration but not on their license
- The Voter moved in the past 8 years but didn't update their license (most Ohio drivers only have to update their license every 8 years!)
- The Voter's voter registration says Elizabeth but their license says Betsy
- The Voter changed OR hyphenated their last name when they got married
- The Voter ever changed their name for any reason at any time
- BMV data is wrong or not updated
- The Voter doesn't have a driver's license or state ID

This would force tens of thousands (potentially many more) of eligible Ohioans to vote provisionally AND require that they make a trip to the BMV to prove their identity before their vote can be counted.

If things in this bill couldn't get worse, just wait, there's more! Under Ohio's SAVE Act, if a voter is forced to vote provisionally for ANY reason, and the voter fails to provide proper documentation afterward, their voter registration will be canceled.

Adding these provisions to Ohio's election law is unnecessary. Just last fall, Ohio's Secretary of State Frank LaRose was quoted as saying that Ohio is "the gold standard for elections administration" and that "In Ohio, we take pride in making it both easy to vote and hard to cheat".
(<https://www.nbc4i.com/news/your-local-election-hq/how-secretary-of-state-frank-larose-says-ohios-elections-are-secured/>)

On this Memorial Day, the day we mourn military personnel who gave up their lives and their futures for us. The way to honor them and protect American democracy against the spread of fascism is to stop dangerous bills like this.

I ask you to sincerely consider my testimony and reject this unAmerican bill and take more time to speak with local elections officials about the true implications of this bill.

Ohioans deserve better than terrible legislation like this!

Sincerely,
Mary Klain