

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 Alyssa Louagie. I am a lifelong Ohio resident. I'm writing to express serious disagreement with SB 153 and its companion HB 233. These bills, rather than protecting Ohioans right to vote, will make it harder for many Ohioans to exercise their legal right to vote. When you speak to our current election officials – those from BOTH PARTIES – they say time and time again that our elections are secure, accurate and well-run AS THEY CURRENTLY ARE.

Our election officials in this state, both Republicans and Democrats, work hard to ensure that our elections are safe, fair, accurate and free from tampering. Adding additional voter restrictions is unnecessary and make is harder for Ohioans to exercise their right to vote. As a woman who changed her name when she got married, I have serious concerns about the implications of the requirements in these bills on women who change their names upon marriage. I also have concerns that this bill would create unnecessary provisional ballots (which create more work for our current election officials and poll workers). You also run the risk of disenfranchising people who have simple things like a middle initial listed on their voter registration but not on their drivers license, or a nickname listed one place and a full given name listed on the other. We do not need to create additional hoops for people to jump through in order to vote – we just need to let our current election officials do their jobs and ensure that the current, existing voter registration and ID requirements are effectively implemented. This bill also is an unfunded mandate, as there is no money attached to these bills to offset the costs associated with things like increased provisional ballots, etc.

I ask you to consider my testimony and consider the serious ramifications of this bill on the ability of Ohio residents to exercise their legal right to vote.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Alyssa Louagie