

October 25, 2025

In opposition to SB153

To the honorable members of the Ohio Senate General Government Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present written testimony on Senate Bill 153.

My name is Elaine Bayless and I am a small business owner in Shaker Heights, Ohio. I was born in Wilmington, Ohio, attended Oberlin College, and moved to Shaker Heights to raise my children. I am proud to be an Ohioan.

I have volunteered to collect signatures on several ballot initiatives. Some made it to the ballot and some didn't, but all of them allowed Ohioans to have a voice in what matters to them. I have never been paid for these efforts, but it is deeply satisfying to take action on a cause I believe in. Making Ohio voters aware of issues that affect them is a crucial part of the democratic process and I am proud to be a small part of that. It is already a very high bar to get an initiative on the ballot; please do not make it even harder.

Ohio's elections are already very secure, according to Secretary LaRose. Adding more restrictions and verification for voting will mean more provisional ballots, overburdening our pollworkers and slowing results. And the idea of eliminating drop boxes is just ludicrous. This would harm those who work during voting hours, seniors, and those with disabilities.

Stop trying to solve a nonexistent fraud problem and instead, work to make it easier for all Ohioans to be part of the political process and exercise their right to vote.

Thank you for your consideration.

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