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**Opposition Testimony: SB 153 & SB 293 October 28, 2025**

**Chairwoman Sen Kristina Roegner; vice- chairwoman Sen. Theresa Gavarone, Ranking Member Sen. Willis Blackshear and members of the Senate General Government Committee**

I am writing today to oppose SB 153 and SB 293. The only recourse people like me have (elderly woman with 24/7 caregiver responsibilities) is the vote—my vote. As legislators become more disconnected from **all** the people they represent, the ability to make change peacefully, particularly if one is not a member of the majority party, becomes more like a pipe dream and less like something that can be relied upon.

Voter fraud has been cited repeatedly as the reason why we need to enact laws like SB 153 and SB 293. However, the data from Ohio and other states have shown that fraud is both rare and not a factor in the outcome of elections. What I have personally experienced is casting my vote has become harder than ever. My husband who is bedridden will not be able to vote at all. Making citizen initiatives more difficult by imposing nitpicking regulations like those in SB 153, is another way of stifling peoples' voices and further destroying the trust people have in their elected officials. Losing trust is a surefire way to destroy what is left of the republic that our forefathers handed down to us. I am hearing that the federal Department of Justice is going to get involved in some state elections—an area heretofore reserved to the states for good reason. Having federal governmental officials acting as guardians of the election is yet another way of making citizens believe that voting is NOT a safe thing to do.

I know this message will have little impact on what happens with SB153, SB 293, or other bills like them. However, remaining silent as I watch our elections become more and more like those of a country controlled by a dictator makes it imperative for me to speak up. Elections have always been a recourse for people who are dissatisfied with what their representatives are doing. It is the only thing we have to hold you accountable for your actions in Columbus. That is MY responsibility as a citizen. But that duty gets harder and harder to fulfill with every bill like SB 153 and SB 293 that you enact.

These bills go a long way towards making elections an exercise in futility. They are not needed and ultimately are yet another log on the fire that is destroying the foundation that

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has sustained this country since its inception. There's a reason why people fought for the vote and still are. It matters and should not become a plastic figure to be manipulated to achieve someone's personal empowerment.