

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

**From:** Joseph L. Kaiser

**Date:** 10/25/25

**Re:** Opposition to Senate Bill 153 – The Ohio SAVE Act

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong opposition to Senate Bill 153, known as the Ohio SAVE Act.

SB 153 is an unnecessary and dangerous piece of legislation that undermines the constitutional rights of Ohio's voters and threatens the integrity of our elections under the guise of "security." This bill does not "save" anything — it instead imposes new barriers to voting, restricts access to ballot drop boxes, and creates mechanisms that could be used to challenge and intimidate eligible voters, particularly in communities that already face systemic barriers to participation.

The bill's supporters claim it is designed to restore "faith in elections." Yet Ohio's elections are already among the most secure and transparent in the nation. According to the Ohio Secretary of State's office, out of more than 5.9 million votes cast in the 2022 general election, only 62 cases of potential voter fraud were referred for further investigation — a rate of 0.001%. That is not evidence of a broken system. It is evidence of a system that works.

This bill's true impact would not be to protect voters, but to silence them. By reducing access to ballot drop boxes, tightening deadlines, and increasing bureaucratic burdens on both voters and boards of elections, SB 153 would disenfranchise working Ohioans, elderly voters, people with disabilities, and those in rural or lower-income areas who rely most heavily on flexible voting options.

Moreover, by limiting local election boards' discretion and consolidating more control in the state government, this bill would further erode the nonpartisan professionalism that has been a hallmark of Ohio's election system. This is a solution in search of a problem — one that would make our elections more partisan, less accessible, and less trusted by the public.

In a democracy, every citizen's voice matters. The right to vote — freely, fairly, and without unnecessary interference — is not negotiable. SB 153 sends the message that some voices matter more than others, and that is unacceptable.

I urge this committee to reject Senate Bill 153 in its entirety. Instead of sowing distrust in our election system, Ohio's leaders should focus on strengthening voter education, expanding early voting access, and supporting our bipartisan county boards of elections that continue to serve voters with dedication and integrity.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully urge you to oppose SB 153.

Sincerely,  
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