

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 Katherine Carlson. I am a multi-generational Delaware County resident who has been born and raised in Ohio. I moved back to this great state 3.5 years ago after being gone for a few years in order to be closer to my family, which is incredibly important to me.

I am strongly opposed to SB 153.

Some of the greatest markers of our democracy and country are our fair and free elections and the ability of ALL citizens to make their voices heard and communicate with their elected officials, who are supposed to listen to their constituents and represent their wishes. SB 153 will severely limit both of those markers. It's already illegal for non-citizens to vote. The items laid out in this bill only add unnecessary hurdles, administrative paperwork, and budgetary items to the election process for something that is NOT a problem currently.

There is a lot of discussion around wanting to protect families and celebrate families. I got married this year, but cannot with good conscious go through the process to legally change my name to my married name as my husband and I continue building our family, because I fear for my ability to retain my right to vote if this bill passes. A right that is given to me by the constitution. There is no line item or way to clarify my citizenship if my legal name doesn't match my birth certificate, which would be the case if I changed it to my married name.

That's just one instance of the hardship that comes from this bill – the list continues and a large percentage of your own eligible constituents will have roadblocks put in front of them unnecessarily and will lose their ability to make their voices heard, including through petitions for ballot initiatives. Is that really what we want as a state? As a country?

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote *NO* on this dangerous bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.