

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

My name is Ashley Maier Owen and I am a life-long citizen of Ohio.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am writing to express my opposition to SB 153. This massive bill is unnecessary and deeply harmful.

Just like the SAVE Act at the federal level which is EXTREMELY unpopular, SB 153 will make it extremely hard for married women like myself, who have changed their name, to prove our citizenship.

Secretary of State Frank LaRose found ZERO cases of voter fraud in Ohio in the 2024 Presidential election. In the rest of the 2024 elections, there was a 99.9% accuracy rate.

In fact, LaRose says Ohio is the "gold standard" for election integrity. So if there's no voter fraud, why would we need this law, this infringement on voter rights here in Ohio?

Additionally, Kansas passed a similar proof-of-citizenship law a decade ago. And it became one of the biggest political fiascos in their state history.

So why would we want the same thing for Ohio? Why would anyone want to go from "gold standard" to "political fiasco"?

Do what's right for Ohio. Please vote NO on moving SB 153 forward.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Ashley Maier Owen  
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