

To: Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Blackshear, and members of the Senate General Government Committee
From: J. Kay Coughlin, lifelong Ohio resident
Date: October 27, 2025
Re: Written testimony opposing SB 153

I write today to strongly oppose SB 153. This bill is nothing short of a waste of legislative resources at the expense of taxpayers like me and my family, and would lead to (1) restricting the ability of legally-eligible Ohioans to have fair access to voting, and (2) criminalizing the process of democracy in Ohio. SB 153 is being proposed and considered despite the well-documented fact that voter fraud is so infrequent as to be almost non-existent.

SB 153 would impose the following unnecessary, discriminatory and even punitive burdens on legally-eligible Ohio voters:

- Ohio's SAVE Act would require burdensome "documentary proof of citizenship."
- Ohio's SAVE Act would require ID to match voter information exactly.
- Under Ohio's SAVE Act, if forced to vote provisionally for ANY reason, if someone fails to provide proper documentation afterward, their voter registration will be canceled.
- Under Ohio's SAVE Act, if voters fail to respond to voter confirmation notices sent to them through the mail within 14 days of the second notice, they could face PROSECUTION.
- Ohio's SAVE Act would ban ALL ballot drop boxes, even the ones located outside county Board of Elections.
- Ohio's SAVE Act would require ALL newly registered voters and recently updated voters to vote provisionally until their citizenship is verified.
- Ohio's SAVE Act is a direct attack on Ohio's citizen-led ballot initiative process, placing petition committee members and petition circulators in legal jeopardy.
- Ohio's SAVE Act would require anyone who circulates a ballot initiative petition to un-Constitutionally sign away their Fifth Amendment rights.
- Ohio's SAVE Act would purposefully increase harassment against petition circulators.
- Ohio's SAVE Act would jeopardize democracy in Ohio by greatly increasing the number of petitions and signatures that would be invalidated.

I urge you, as those who have been duly elected by We the People of Ohio to ensure effective representation of, and protect democracy for, the people of the State of Ohio, to vote NO on SB 153. SB 153 is a bill that amounts to nothing more than a heavy-handed and punitive solution in search of a problem that does not exist.