

Testimony Opposing SB 153

Introduction

October 27, 2025

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

Opening Statement

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Cheryl Ermann Weinstein. I am a retired Ohio physician who is deeply concerned about every citizen's ability to access health care and exercise their right to vote. I am here today to state my strong opposition to SB 153.

The Importance of Citizen Participation

The process through which citizens can raise new ideas, share information, and evaluate proposed or introduced changes for the population of the State of Ohio—specifically through petitions—is essential. This is particularly true considering the current imbalance in representation within our state legislature. At present, the legislature is overwhelmingly Republican; however, recent elections have shown that voter preferences are much closer, typically falling in the 45-55% range.

Concerns Regarding SB 153

Increasing the difficulty for citizens to petition the government does not serve the population of Ohio well. Such restrictions can make it harder for individuals to bring forth new proposals and to ensure their voices are heard, which is contrary to the principles of a representative democracy.

Common variations of personal signatures, i.e. use or omission of a middle initial or middle name, should not bar an individual from completing a regular ballot. The busy lives of working, parenting and otherwise engaged citizens make it difficult or impossible to fulfill the process of converting a provisional ballot to a regular ballot so the vote will be counted.

Request to the Committee

I respectfully ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this bill, which I believe to be un-American and limiting to our democracy.

Conclusion

Thank you again for providing me the opportunity to testify before you today.

