

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

My name is Amy Czarnecki Gustine. Born and raised in Ohio, I am a writer and a mother of two. My family has been in Ohio since my great grandparents immigrated to this country from Hungary and Poland. Union members, business owners, railroad workers, electricians, therapists, attorneys—we've contributed in many ways to this nation and this state, and many of those contributions were made by my mother and grandmothers—all of whom changed their name when they got married. This is one reason among many that I am strongly opposed to SB 153.

Voting is a right and the very foundation of democracy. That means it is the GOVERNMENT'S responsibility to make registering to vote EASY. It is also the government's responsibility to create a good paper trail for things that citizens, especially female citizens, need to do every day—like move and change their name when they marry, divorce, or get adopted. My mother's step-father adopted her and she changed her name to his, which made a big difference in her quality of life. Then she married and changed her name again. When I married I dropped my middle name and replaced it with my maiden name, and started using my husband's name as my last name. My son's fiancée changed her last name to distance herself from an abusive father and she will change it again soon when she gets married. We all followed all government rules for how to make these changes—yet this bill would call into question the legitimacy of our voter registrations.

Secure elections should not and do not have to rely on every citizen navigating a labyrinthine process by which their name and address gets recorded throughout a complex bureaucracy. No. Voting is a right that must be ENSURED by the government, not flummoxed or merely tolerated.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote *NO* on this un-American bill. There are fair and accurate ways to ensure that elections remain secure. The SAVE act does the opposite. Every election will be inaccurate by throwing out millions of legitimate votes from voters of ALL political persuasions. **It's a big mistake to think this will only affect one party. It will affect everyone. My mother was on one side of the aisle and I am on the other. But we both had every right to vote.**

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

AMY CZARNECKI GUSTINE