

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 Michiko Watanabe. I am a semi-retired professor emeritus at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and a citizen of the US. I am strongly opposed to SB 153.

I have worked many hours with the League of Women Voters and other groups to make sure that citizens have a say in governmental actions that impact them by educating and collecting petitions for many key issues. This Ohio's SAVE Act would greatly increase the number of petitions and signatures that would be invalidated. For example, Ohioans could no longer register people to vote and get their petition signature at the same time. That would reduce the number of voters overall.

For another example, every signer's voter registration would have to be current before they sign the petition. That would again greatly reduce the number of valid signatures. Not everyone is up on their registration especially students and young people who move frequently and newly married women who changed their last name.

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