

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

My name is Jamie, and I moved to Ohio to raise my daughter. I had never been here before we came, but this is where we chose to build our lives. This is home now. And unless laws like this make it a place I no longer feel safe raising my child, this is where we plan to stay.

You want my family here, I promise you that. We're the kind of people who care deeply about our neighbors, who show up for our community, who believe in Ohio's potential to be a place of fairness and compassion.

That's why I'm here today to oppose Senate Bill 153. This bill is unnecessary, harmful, and out of alignment with the values that make Ohio strong.

As a woman and a mother, I know how hard it can be to navigate systems that aren't designed with us in mind. This bill would make it even harder for women who have changed their names, often through marriage, to prove their citizenship and access their right to vote.

We already know voter fraud is not a problem here. Secretary of State Frank LaRose himself confirmed zero cases of voter fraud in the 2024 Presidential election, and a 99.9% accuracy rate overall. He called Ohio the "gold standard" for election integrity.

If that's true, and it is, why would we pass a law that threatens to disenfranchise the very people who make our communities thrive? Why would we take something working well and turn it into a barrier?

We've seen what happened in Kansas when similar laws were passed. There was confusion, disenfranchisement, and distrust. Ohio doesn't need to repeat that mistake.

Our democracy is strongest when everyone has a voice. When we make it harder for people to participate, we don't just silence votes, we weaken the fabric of community itself.

I urge you to vote no on SB 153, and to choose a future for Ohio that welcomes families like mine, families who came here to plant roots, contribute, and believe in what this state can be. Thank you for your time and your service.

With respect and hope,

Jamie