

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 Audry Alabiso, I live in Akron, Ohio. I am writing this testimony because I am strongly opposed to SB 153.

When the State of Kansas tried similar proof-of-citizenship requirements, 12% of registrations from US citizens were denied (1). Based on data from the Ohio Secretary of State's Voter Registration Dashboard, there were approximately 750,000 new and updated voter registrations in 2024.

If SB 153 had been adopted for 2024 then 90,000 new voters could have been denied their right to engage in the democratic process. This may sound extreme, but in the 2024 primary nearly 8,000 Ohioans were denied their right to vote because of previously updated photo id requirements (2). If one case of non-citizen voting is unacceptable because it could make a difference in an election, then removing the right to vote for thousands of Ohioans certainly will make a difference.

There are already very robust procedures in place to keep non-citizens from voting. The new rules outlined in SB 153 wont save democracy, they harm it by denying eligible Ohioans the right to vote. It defies common sense to deny the rights of thousands to prevent a single non-citizen from voting.

Thank you
Audry Alabiso

References:

(1) <https://apnews.com/article/kansas-noncitizen-voting-proof-of-citizenship-50d56a0b8d1f0fde15480aab3db67f4f>

(2) <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/elections/2024/07/30/ohio-voter-id-law-disenfranchised/74169004007/>