

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 Lisa Lee Kohler. I am a lifelong resident of Ohio, residing in Mahoning County, Canfield Ohio. I am strongly opposed to SB 153.

As an Ohio Pollworker, I am appalled at the proposed Ohio Save Act Legislation, SB153. This legislation is undemocratic and unnecessary.

It will stop thousands, potentially hundreds of thousands from casting their ballots and having their voices heard.

We have already seen an up tic in provisional ballots cast, due to the other voter suppression measures this body has seen fit to pass in Ohio. The horribly misnamed SAVE Act will result in an exponential growth of provisional ballots. And it fixes no problem, as there is not a problem to fix. Our own Secretary of State repeats that Ohio's Elections are the gold standard. And, despite the announcements of voter fraud, I cannot find any proof of anyone in Ohio actually convicted of the same. It is highly disingenuous.

I personally, have had to turn Ohio Citizens away from their polling place. And, have had conversations with Ohio citizens who cannot vote now for finding the proper paperwork to satisfy the provisions currently in place. This bill would make it so much worse. I do not understand the rational here. ONE citizen being denied their right to vote is surely, one too many.

I attend our County Board of Elections Meetings and continually hear that our voter turnout is low. And it seems to be getting lower with each passing election. I struggle to understand why our elected officials want to make participatory government difficult.

I wish each and every member of this General Assembly would spend one day as an Ohio Poll Worker. I can guarantee you would see things differently. Or, perhaps not. If you continue to support this horrific bill, even after hearing all of the opponent testimony and ignoring all of the calls to your offices, then there can only be one explanation; you, knowingly, will vote to deny Ohioans their right to vote. You will, knowingly, deny their voices.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this undemocratic bill. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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