

## **Testimony by Ian Logan in Opposition to Senate Bill 153**

I want to begin by thanking Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Blackshear and members of the Senate General Government Committee for the opportunity to provide opposition testimony on Senate Bill 153.

As a quick introduction, my name is Ian Logan, an Ohio native from Mason, Ohio who currently attends The Ohio State University. I strongly believe in free and fair elections, in secure elections, and against the politization of our electoral process.

In at least the first two respects, Senate Bill 153 is a failure.

With respect to free and fair elections, SB153 places many Ohio Citizens at risk of losing their right to vote. The Ohio Citizen who drops their vote down the dropbox may no longer do so at their own convenience, but rather at the convenience of the state, and as such risks losing their right to vote. The Ohio Citizen who changes their name, whether for marriage, or for personal reasons which do not concern the state, risks losing their right to vote. The Ohio Citizen who moves to a different apartment in the same city risks losing their right to vote. The Ohio Citizen who forgets to check their mail risks losing their right to vote.

The Ohio Citizen would be more at risk of losing his right to vote than they were before, a fact that is in fundamental opposition to this principle, the principles of this country, and of this state. Is this overexaggeration? I'm not sure, because it's apparent to me that compared to current law, this bill exposes many new opportunities for the Ohio Citizen to not have their vote counted.

In a world filled with emails, texts, calls, mail, and more, assuming that citizens have the capacity to keep up with more bureaucracy and last-minute traps mailed to them unassumingly, is irresponsible. Perhaps you and I can keep up with politics, but we both know the average person has better things to do, and likely won't be aware that their vote is at risk until it's too late!

With respect to secure elections, SB153 is in complete ignorance of the work already being done by our many hardworking election officials across the eighty-eight counties of Ohio. Our Boards of Election already have measures in place to verify voter eligibility and ensure election integrity.

SB153 is over 200 pages of new mandates with no new money. Overworking our institutions responsible for election administration DOES NOT make elections more secure. Overcomplicating their work DOES NOT make elections more secure. There is NOTHING in this bill which provides actual help to our community members who work tirelessly to make sure we have free, fair, and secure elections.

If I may suggest, this bill ought to be discussed at a time when election officials are actually available to give testimony and feedback, rather than at a time where we know they are very busy doing the very work this bill claims to do. If the desire truly is secure elections, then

perhaps more collaboration with local Boards of Election are in order, or even better, more support for our local Boards of Election.

In respect to the politization of our electoral process, I'll leave that to you. Only the honorable members of this chamber before me are capable of determining whether this bill is better served for politics or for governance.

In summary, if the goal of this chamber is to secure our elections and ensure they are free and fair, it is clear that the best course of action would be to vote NO on Senate Bill 153. Consider that election security cannot come at the expense of free and fair elections. I urge you to work with election officials and citizens to pursue real solutions, not barriers to voting. Thank you for your consideration.