

PROPONENT TESTIMONY OF:

Deborah Cooper
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Worthington, Ohio 43085

IN SUPPORT OF:

HB 55

Allow House committees/sessions be conducted virtually
House Government Oversight Committee

Dear Ohio House Government Oversight Committee members,

For our democracy to work best, citizens need to be involved and have equitable access to participation. Participating in person at legislative proceedings is not a safe option for most Ohioans during a pandemic, and even under "normal" circumstances, some people have a great deal of difficulty getting to the Statehouse.

Virtual hearings will be especially important when the legislature takes up redistricting. Legislative leaders must keep democracy open, and we have the technology to do so.

I urge support for House Bill 55, which would allow for virtual testimony - an important first step to ensuring that all Ohioans can participate in the legislative process.