Testimony in Opposition to HB680

I appreciate the chance to testify in opposition to HB 680 which deals with the fundamental Ohio voting rights, and so the bed rock of our communities, state and the nation.

I am a retired cabinetmaker, 76 years old, and troubled with mild COPD which I work hard to keep in check through exercise, nutrition and Ohio recommended precautions during the COVID19 pandemic. I am strongly opposed to HB 680. I was fortunate enough to vote in the first days of early in-person voting here in Hamilton County, and appreciated all the Elections staff did to make it safe and easy. That was before the shelter in place orders. Later that would have been impossible, and my questionable eligibility would have forced me to use a provisional ballot, and perhaps join the 200,000 people whose votes were not counted.

I had the good fortune to live in a state with universal mail-in ballots. Oregon has been using it for years. All of my co-workers friends and acquaintances there —Republican, liberal, Democrat or conservative—they all really liked the change once they saw how it works. And the research consistently finds it did not increase voter fraud. We already have an absentee ballot system that works, and with changes can provide easy access to voting without risk to public health and no increase in voter fraud. We already have funding for postage paid ballot requests to be sent to all registered voters. We need early voting again and adequate staffing and funding for the Boards of Elections to do this important work.

I can see no logical argument for the restrictions in HB 680. The only justification for them is to decrease the number of people voting. Any elected official seeking to do that desecrates our country and is working against the many years of sacrifice by those who built this country.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this dangerous bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

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