Nathan H. Manning

**Ohio Senate**

Senate Building

1 Capital Square

Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111

Phone: (614) 644-7613

Manning@OhioSenate.gov

www.OhioSenate.gov

State Senator

13th District

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Chairman Coley, Vice Chair Huffman and Ranking Member Craig, members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 186, termed “verified voter registration” legislation that will ease access to voting, and streamline the process for all Ohioans.

Senate Bill 186 will:

* Implement more accurate voter list
* Increase efficiency in local boards of elections
* Decrease risk of voter fraud
* Streamline the registration process

Senate Bill 186 will create a system for more accurate voter rolls, prevention of voter fraud and increased efficiencies at local boards of elections, ensuring that the elections process runs smoother from start to finish. Currently, Ohio puts the burden on voters to remember to update their registration each time they change address. Most people have reason to visit the BMV more frequently than they will remember to visit the Secretary of State’s website, or to contact their local BOE. This legislation will update registration, mirroring the address given to the BMV, and will cancel the old address in order to maintain accurate voter lists.

By shifting the burden to allow state government to automate this process when we visit the BMV, we will improve the accuracy of voter rolls across the state. We currently rely on out of date mechanisms which can create flaws, and keep outdated data in our system for years. Local boards of elections spend an exorbitant amount of time managing this outmoded system, but by implementing a voter verified system, we will reduce the excess maintenance that the boards of elections are currently required to perform.

I want to thank my Co-Sponsor, Senator Sykes, the Ohio Association of Election Officials, as well as Secretary of State LaRose and his staff for working with me on this legislation. All have provided invaluable information regarding Ohio voting laws and mechanisms.

Chairman Coley, Vice-Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the Government Oversight and Reform Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify today. I will be happy to take any questions from the committee at this time.