

PRESENTED TO:
CONSTITUTIONAL RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE
Re: HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1
OHIO STATEHOUSE
APRIL 19, 2023

OPPONENT TESTIMONY OF:
DEBRA S. SAUNDERS
DUBLIN, OHIO 43017

Chairman Plummer, Vice Chair Hillyer, Ranking Member Mohamed and members of the House Constitutional Resolutions Committee, thank you for this opportunity to provide opponent testimony on House Joint Resolution 1.

I am Debra Saunders. I reside in the Columbus area, in Dublin. My districts are represented by State Senator Kunze, and State Representative Somani.

Within the last several years, the voting rights of citizens in this state have been pummeled by the legislative majority. It has not gone unnoticed. This majority has maneuvered against the Ohio Constitution's anti-gerrymandering mandate, defied the Ohio Supreme Court's ruling against unconstitutional redistricting, and conducted elections using unlawful maps, all in defiance of fairness and a voter's right to cast a ballot that represents that voter's choice.

There is a continued, even constant drumbeat to nullify voting rights in Ohio by this majority. HJR1 serves to strip Ohio voters further of the right to engage in the democratic process. Realizing this resolution is not popular with Ohio voters and would have little chance of passing in the general election, the consideration of yet another off-cycle, costly election in an effort to push this disfavored resolution through while no one is looking, is yet more maneuvering and slight-of-hand.

To amend a law that has been in effect for over 100 years, one that has been tested and proven to support the democratic process for these tens of decades, strikes of something much deeper. This moves to extinguish the participation of voters in this state, creating a barrier so high, it cannot be scaled by the electorate. It pushes the Ohio voter out of the process. But maybe that is the intent.

I urge you, members of this committee, to oppose House Joint Resolution 1.

Respectfully submitted.