

**Opposition Testimony for HJR1
Constitution Resolutions Committee
Wednesday, April 19, 2023
Joshua Ferry
Student at Cleveland State University**

Chairman Plummer, Vice Chair Hillyer, Ranking Member Mohamed and members of the committee.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my testimony and perspective on this bill. My name is Joshua Ferry. I am a student at Cleveland State and a resident of Lakewood and am writing in opposition of HJR 1.

I'm expressing my opposition towards this resolution because it would give an unfair advantage to citizens.

Requiring a 60% threshold for citizen-led ballots will affect direct democracy. While the United States might be considered as a 'republic' we also need to balance that out with direct democracy. This bill would take away the concept of one person, one vote and give some voters a better advantage than others.

Let's also talk about an August 2023 election. By having this election, despite August elections being taken away, it would be a waste of tax dollars, and due to the timing, would not get much attention, and for that matter not much turnout. Defending democracy should not be a partisan issue, and by voting no to create on HJR 1 you will be saving democracy in Ohio.

As the slogan for The Washington Post goes, "Democracy dies in darkness"---by voting yes on this bill, you're letting Democracy die. Ballot initiatives have been a decades long tradition in Ohio, by voting 'no' on HJR 1, you're also upholding a nearly 100 year old tradition

After reading this testimony I hope this testimony gives you a different perspective on HJR 1 rather than your opinion.

Thank you for your consideration,

Joshua Ferry

If you have any followup questions, please contact me at Joshf0904@gmail.com,

I'm willing to answer any followup questions you may have