

TO: Chair Plummer, Vice Chair Hudson Hillyer, Ranking Member Mohamed and Members of the Ohio House Constitutional Resolutions Committee

My name is Elizabeth Makiewicz. I live in Dayton Ohio. I appreciate the opportunity to submit my testimony about House Joint Resolution 1 (HJR1). I am opposed to this resolution. It is an attack on the right of all Ohioans to the citizen-initiated constitutional amendment process.

I oppose HJR1 for the following reasons:

1 - All Ohioans deserve a right to a direct democracy. This is enshrined in the 1912 amendments to the Ohio Constitution.

A 50% vote threshold for constitutional amendments ensures the majority in Ohio prevails in democratic decision making at the ballot, just as it does when the General Assembly passes laws.

2 - HJR 1 is clearly designed to enshrine the supermajority's power and stop future constitutional amendments that the majority of Ohioans support.

I also oppose HB 144, related to HJR 1, because:

1 - An August Special Election this year, only for a ballot initiative, is a waste of taxpayer resources.

2 - Any change to the Ohio Constitution should be on the ballot during an election when the most Ohioans show up to vote, such as a General Election.

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. I am pleased to answer any questions you may have about my testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Makiewicz