

Chairman Plummer, Vice Chair Hillyer, Ranking Member Mohamed, and members of the Constitutional Resolutions Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony. My name is Lisa Much. I am a concerned Ohioan who is opposed to HRJ 1.

As you know, Ohio is filled with a lot of different kinds of people and a lot of issues that concern many walks of life. The general assembly has a huge task trying to manage all legislation for the state and, of course, it makes sense that the legislative branch creates law. However, there are some important issues to many Ohioans, over fifty percent of Ohioans actually, that might be better served through citizen-led action. These include items that might be priorities to some legislators, but might be politically unappealing to present as a bill.

For example, a couple years ago, there was a citizen-led push for an anti-vaccine mandate. I know that some in the general assembly and many Ohioans would love to see that as law. We don't want the government interfering with our bodies and telling us where we can go. With HRJ 1, this would be unlikely to pass with a 60% threshold.

Additionally, there are not many constitutional resolutions that make it to the voters. Ohio already has a rigorous system to vet proposals before they get to the ballot, including the two-phase signature approach, AG approval (which generally takes multiple attempts), and exposure to many media markets. It's expensive to do a citizen-led initiative. I've lived in Ohio for eleven years, and I can't remember that many citizen-led initiatives passing. Voters tend to vote no anyway when they are confused.

This resolution seems like a blatant attempt to steal power and voice from the citizens of Ohio who elected you. Just because you disagree with someone does not mean you get to silence or censor them. That's not the America I want to live in. The process we already have in place should be allowed to play out and let the will of the people decide. That is what this country is based on. That's what I would hope the state I actively chose to move to would do as well.

I ask you to consider my testimony as a concerned Ohioan and vote NO on this deeply problematic resolution. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.