

**Opponent Testimony of Lis Regula, Ph.D.
Regarding House Joint Resolution 1
Presented to the Ohio House Constitutional Resolutions Committee**

Chair Plummer, Vice Chair Hudson Hillyer, Ranking Member Mohamed and Members of the Ohio House Constitutional Resolutions Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony to this committee regarding House Joint Resolution 1. My name is Lis Regula, and I live in Columbus and work in Dayton. I am opposed to House Joint Resolution 1—this proposal is an attack on the right of all Ohioans to the citizen-initiated constitutional amendment process.

I'm a proud Ohio-boy, born and bred, and have always taken pride in our state. We not only have some of the most beautiful lands in the US with our north coast, refugial hemlock forests in the southeast, rolling plains in the west, and riverine forests throughout, we also have built a state that produces more than our fair share of Presidents and astronauts thanks to our stellar access to educational opportunities, both formal and informal. Ohio has long been regarded as "the Heart of it All" for good reason. Our participatory democratic processes across the state and local levels help to make that possible, as does our valuing of all people and the perspectives their varied life experiences bring to the table.

I oppose House Joint Resolution 1 because:

- All Ohioans deserve a right to a direct democracy, as 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.
- 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:

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

As we have seen with the national scandal that HB 6 and the Householder trial has become- not to mention the multiple instances of Ohio policy makers flouting our own Supreme Court over district maps, the larger problem in Ohio today is from corruption and lack of transparency in governance, not to mention a confrontational stance that pits legislators and constituents as opponents instead of collaborators in democracy. We need a MORE democratic process and BROADER engagement in the

running of our great state, not less. HJR 1 and HB 144 would distinctly curtail citizen involvement in running Ohio, and they are counter to the values of equality and citizen leadership that our state has held dear for over a century.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today, and I will answer any questions you may have about my testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Lis Regula. Ph.D.
291 S. Terrace Ave.
Columbus, Ohio 43204
419-231-2204
LKRegula@gmail.com