

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Sheryl McMillen. As a lifelong resident of Ohio and as a citizen who is committed to doing all that I can to protect our democracy, I am strongly opposed to House Joint Resolution 1.

[Section 2 of Ohio's Bill of Rights](#) begins with this sentence: "All political power is inherent in the people." For over 100 years, Ohioans across the political spectrum have used citizen-led ballot initiatives to exercise that inherent power.

I have proudly participated in the citizen-led ballot initiative process myself, by voluntarily gathering petition signatures, and by voting on citizen proposals. Why? Because no matter what part of Ohio we're from or what issues we care about, we all know that in a democracy, access to the ballot is a fundamental right.

It is because of that right that I must voice my opposition to House Joint Resolution 1. By requiring signature collection in 88 rather than 44 counties, removing the "cure period" after signatures are turned in, and requiring a 60% "YES" vote to pass a constitutional amendment, House Joint Resolution 1 will make it nearly impossible for ordinary citizens to propose and pass policies on issues that are favored by the majority of their fellow Ohioans. This legislation along with our state's heavily gerrymandered districts will allow special interests, lobbyists, and politicians to hoard all of the power; the power that according to our Ohio Bill of Rights is "inherent in the people."

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this undemocratic bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Sheryl McMillen