



Opposition Testimony to SJR2

SJR2 is undemocratic, unfair, unpopular, and unnecessary.

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

My name is Alex Watts and I am honored to serve on the Board of Directors of the Ohio Nurses Association, the voice of Ohio's 180,000 Registered Nurses since 1904.

The Ohio Nurses Association is a strong community of union and non-union registered nurses who are dedicated to protecting and advancing the profession and impacting healthcare in Ohio.

As a registered nurse and a member of the Ohio Nurses Association, I am strongly opposed to both Senate Joint Resolution 2. SJR 2 is undemocratic, unfair, unpopular, and unnecessary as it serves to protect the power of the Ohio General Assembly and undermine the sacred principle of one person, one vote.

SJR 2 is particularly concerning as it seeks to limit the ability of Ohioans to vote and elect their representatives by requiring a supermajority vote for any citizen-led constitutional amendments. This is a clear attempt by the General Assembly to protect its own power and limit the voice of the people they are supposed to represent.

Furthermore, combined with SB 92, which would hold a special election in August to increase the odds of taking away our freedom and rights, is deeply troubling. The timing of this election seems designed to suppress turnout and limit participation, which is the opposite of what a healthy democracy should strive for. It is not difficult to see how this could give all the power to special interests, lobbyists, and career politicians, leaving everyday Ohioans with no say in the policies that affect our lives.

The Ohio Nurses Association, along with many other organizations, firmly believes that SJR 2 is not in the best interest of the people of Ohio. The power of the General Assembly should not come at the expense of the basic democratic principles of our state.

We urge you to listen to the voices of Ohioans and reject these undemocratic proposals. We deserve fair and transparent elections that uphold the principle of one person, one vote.

We urge you to stand up for the rights and freedoms of all Ohioans and vote against SJR 2.

Thank you.