



OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

The OEA will lead the way for continuous improvement of public education while advocating for members and the learners they serve.

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**Senate Bill 92: Opposition Testimony
House Government Oversight Committee
Thursday, April 27, 2023**

Chair Peterson, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Forhan, and members of the Committee:

My name is Scott DiMauro. I am a high school government teacher from Worthington, and I am proud to serve as the President of the Ohio Education Association. On behalf of the 120,000 members of OEA, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 92 (SB 92).

OEA is opposed to this bill as well as its companion bill, House Bill 144 (HB 144), also pending before this committee. The bill would allow for an August special election in order to rush an ill-conceived constitutional amendment before voters. This is a callous maneuver that breaks Ohio’s long tradition of considering statewide ballot issues during regularly scheduled statewide elections.

Last General Assembly saw the legislature act to eliminate August elections in most cases. The argument from supporters to eliminate the August special election last General Assembly was that these elections have low voter turnout, and it was improper to have decisions made in that manner. However, now the same people who wanted to eliminate special elections are rushing to hold one for HJR 1 / SJR 2 – the proposed constitutional amendments to weaken the voice of Ohio voters. This is a stunning reversal-- one where the outcome could be a lasting alteration to the rights of all Ohioans.

I urge a no vote on SB 92 and HB 144.

This concludes my written testimony. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Feel free to contact OEA Government Relations with any questions.

