



**Sponsor Testimony: House Bill 437**

**Representative Brian Lorenz, 60th House District**

**House Government Oversight Committee**

Chair Peterson, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Humphrey, and members of the House Government Oversight Committee, Thank You for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 437, the Election Integrity Act. This bill brings transparency and common sense to our primary elections in Ohio.

Too often than not, we see an intentional switching of candidates to mislead voters during our primary voting season. This tactic has been known to happen on both sides of the aisle and House Bill 437 is an attempt to stop misleading voters. Our bill would make a candidate declare their party affiliation 90 days prior to the election they've chosen to participate in.

As voters in Ohio are highly informed, we want to provide them with additional protections so they can have trust in their party as they make important decisions. Voters want a candidate with their best interest in mind and claiming one party affiliation while acting in lock step with another party's philosophy is disingenuous and violates trust. Finally, this bill in no way disenfranchises anyone from voting as issue ballots are always available for those with no party affiliation.

Chair Peterson, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Humphreys, and members of the House Government Oversight Committee, thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 437.