

Proponent Testimony for House Bill 472
House Homeland Security Committee
May 15, 2024

Darlene Mullen

Chairman Ghanbari, Vice Chairman Plummer, Ranking Member Thomas and members of the Homeland Security Committee:

I am very pleased that HB472 – The Ohio Votes Count Act is finally being put forth as the solution we need in Ohio to make sure our votes – the votes of citizens ONLY - are secure and counted. I am very concerned about bad actors in other countries not only hacking into our voting systems but being able to register large numbers of fake individuals. Our voting systems are vulnerable to registering ineligible people who are then likely being added to the voter rolls. Those ineligible people can cause havoc because they are able to sign petitions that could ultimately change Ohio's Constitution. This is possible because once the ineligible person is added, and an Acknowledgment Notice is mailed and not returned as undeliverable mail, a mail-in ballot could be sent.

House Bill 472 addresses my concerns in a big way because it tightens up the loopholes in verification that allow these criminals to monkey around in our voting systems. HB472 requires all voter registration information to be validated and every person's identity and citizenship to be verified to ensure the applicant is eligible to vote and prevents them from being added to the Ohio voter rolls.

I want to thank Representative Bernie Willis and Representative Bob Peterson for sponsoring this comprehensive bill that goes a long way to protecting our elections here in Ohio. And thank you to the Homeland Security Committee for hearing my testimony.

I urge you to vote YES on this bill for ALL Ohioans.