

# OHIO FAMILIES UNITE

## FOR POLITICAL ACTION AND CHANGE

Chair Rulli, Vice Chair Schuring, Ranking Member DeMora, and members of the Senate General Government Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Emily Cole, I'm a resident of Hilliard Ohio, and I am the Executive Director of Ohio Families Unite for Political Action and Change, or OFUPAC. The families I stand with and for often disproportionately bear the brunt of the legislative and policy decisions made in this space, given the oppressive expansion of hyper-partisan politics inherent in this general assembly. I am here today to stand for our families in strong opposition to Senate Bill 92.

Similar to Senate Joint Resolution 2, Senate Bill 92 is a dishonest and bad-faith effort to change the rules, *again*, in order to make it harder for Ohioans to protect our freedoms. The legislature decided to eliminate August Special Elections last session because, as per their own testimony, these elections have very low voter turnout, are incredibly expensive, waste taxpayer dollars, and do not reflect the will of the majority of Ohioans.

Imagine my surprise when I see this proposal move forward concurrently with an attempt to make it harder to amend our constitution. One could reasonably conclude that any efforts to move Senate Bill 92 with either Senate Joint Resolution 2 or House Joint Resolution 1 are because these efforts *do not, in fact, reflect the will of the majority of Ohioans*. It is appalling that members of this body continue to waste taxpayer dollars in an effort to subvert the will of Ohioans.

There are a lot of things Ohioans would love for you to allocate 20 million dollars towards, including fully funding our schools, providing mental healthcare, enhancing opportunities for Ohio's children, caring for Ohioans aging in place, and so on and so forth. I'm positive my colleagues and I could happily provide you with a hundred different ways to spend 20 million dollars, in programs that would actually impact the lives of everyday Ohioans. An August special election simply doesn't make the list.

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I urge you to vote no on Senate Bill 92 and employ a semblance of fiscal responsibility. Thank you for your time. I look forward to answering any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Emily Cole

Executive Director

Ohio Families Unite for Political Action and Change

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