

To the Committee RE: SRJ 2

I am opposed to Senate Joint Resolution 2 (SJR2), a proposed constitutional amendment that will restrict Ohio citizens' right to initiative.

SJR2 will make it significantly harder to enact ballot initiatives as we know them in Ohio. While it has been claimed that this amendment will dampen the power of special interests and lobbyists to push their own agendas through ballot initiatives, it will actually do the opposite, giving them more power to block initiatives that the majority of Ohio voters support. This amendment will make it easier for a small number of voters (40%+1) to block citizen generated initiatives, shredding our Constitution as we know it by undermining the sacred principle of 'one person, one vote'.

Ballot initiatives let us exercise our freedom to make decisions that affect our lives. They give us a voice in important issues facing our state, and let us choose what is best for our community. We must protect our access to the ballot initiative and oppose any changes that make it harder for voters to amend the Ohio Constitution.

SJR2 will undermine our democracy and limit our freedom to decide on issues that matter most to us. Please oppose it.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ruth Hardy