

Committee Members,

I would like to take this opportunity to provide testimony regarding the proposed SB137. My name is Cody Morrison and I am a lifelong resident of Ohio. I would like to voice my concerns over this proposed bill. Our elections are a sacred, civil duty entrusted to all Ohioans. Due to the great importance and wide reaching implications that these elections have, it is my belief that they should be carried out without interference and in whatever form the people of Ohio choose. If the citizens of this state want to implement Ranked Choice Voting then that should be their right to decide. We have seen very recent instances of the people of this state making their voices heard on three contentious issues, and just as the people were allowed to make their choices on these issues, so should they be able to make decisions about Ranked Choice Voting. In our currently politically polarized climate many people are looking for ways to allow their vote to carry more weight and to elect candidates who actually reflect their beliefs. Ranked Choice Voting allows for more candidates from a wider range of both parties as well as ideologies within parties to run on equal footing. This system establishes instant runoffs to avoid candidates being elected when only receiving a relatively small percentage of actual votes. Ranked Choice Voting is also a relatively simple and proven method of voting. Two states and many cities and municipalities across this country utilize Ranked Choice Voting effectively. It is a system that people pick up quickly due to the familiar idea of simply ranking choices from most to least favorite. This system has been readily introduced to the general population through the use of both online and magazine polls for many years. When it comes to decisions directly impacting daily life, the people should be the ones to make those decisions. This bill seeks to take that right away and goes against the idea of home rule. If our government is truly supposed to represent us at all levels, then I say let us decide how that should look. Thank you for your time.