

As Reported by the House State and Local Government Committee

134th General Assembly

Regular Session

2021-2022

H. C. R. No. 5

Representative Hall

Cosponsors: Representatives Wiggam, Dean

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge the United States Congress not to adopt H.R. 1 of the 117th Congress. 1
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BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF OHIO (THE SENATE CONCURRING):

WHEREAS, House Resolution 1, a sweeping federal bill that 3
would usurp the power of states to conduct elections as they see 4
fit, against the intentions of our nation's founders, is 5
currently under consideration by Congress; and 6

WHEREAS, Article I, section 4 of the United States 7
Constitution grants the legislative branch of each state the 8
authority to prescribe the "Times, Places and Manner of holding 9
Elections for Senators and Representatives," an authority the 10
United States Congress should only supersede in "extraordinary 11
circumstances" according to Alexander Hamilton in Federalist 12
Number 59; and 13

WHEREAS, Voting laws have evolved across the 50 states over 14
time, providing more and more access, security, and accuracy. 15
But most importantly, each of those same 50 states have created 16
their own unique election systems. From who administers the 17
elections, to how votes are cast, to how a vote is protected - 18
each unique system was born of federalism; and 19

WHEREAS, The imperfection of voting laws across the country 20
is not proof that H.R. 1 is necessary or appropriate, but rather 21
evidence that United States citizens are continuing to strive 22
toward a more perfect union; and 23

WHEREAS, Forcing completely new standards, procedures, and 24
expectations into state election systems, which are not built 25
for those requirements, as is the case under H.R. 1, would bring 26
chaos to those election systems, and that chaos would bring with 27
it a lack of trust by the people in the results of those 28
elections; and 29

WHEREAS, In Ohio, a state whose elections have long been 30
under the watchful eye of the nation, we have developed a system 31
that has ensured voters have confidence in the outcome of our 32
elections. Voter fraud and voter suppression are exceedingly 33
rare. Our efforts to strengthen the security of our elections 34
have become a national model. States are even coming to us to 35
learn our best election practices so they can mirror them back 36
home; now therefore be it 37

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 134th General 38
Assembly of the State of Ohio, affirm our belief in the federal 39
structure of the United States government and declare current 40
voting laws a credit to the design of federal government to 41
allow for democratic experimentation throughout the several 42
states; and be it further 43

RESOLVED, That we urge the United States Congress not to 44
adopt H.R. 1 of the 117th Congress; and be it further 45

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives 46
transmit a duly authenticated copy of this resolution to the 47
Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, 48
the President Pro Tempore and Secretary of the United States 49
Senate, the members of the Ohio Congressional delegation, and 50

the news media of Ohio so they may be apprised of the sense of 51
the General Assembly of the State of Ohio in this matter. 52