

Chair Peterson, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Humphrey, and members of the House Government Oversight Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Christopher Hallahan. I am a resident of Delaware County, Ohio. I was born, raised, and educated in Ohio. I graduated from The University of Toledo with a Bachelors Degree in Science and a Masters Degree in Science from the Civil Engineering Department. I chose to live in Ohio due to my deep family roots and my life experiences within the state. I am married almost 12 years and have a son, Andrew, going into the 5th grade here in Ohio.

For the sake of my personal rights, my family's freedom, and of democracy, I am strongly opposed to HB 1. The following is my list of reasons why I am opposed to this bill.

- 1) Other state legislatures have passed clean bills to put Joe Biden on the ballot this year with no additional legislation or attempts to gain more partisan power. In fact, Ohio passed clean bill to allow both the Republican and Democrat Presidential candidates onto the 2016 ballot after both parties' conventions were held after the 90-day deadline. This should be a clean and easy process, and not muddied by partisan politics.
- 2) Ohio Legislature Republicans are trying to use the effort to put Joe Biden on Ohio's ballot as a political ploy to gain more power and control of government at the expense of citizens' rights to participate in ballot initiatives.
- 3) The proposed bill would weaken current and future ballot initiatives that give citizens the right to make changes in the law that they want by majority vote and to participate in the law-making process.
- 4) The proposed bill gives too much power and authority to investigate ballot initiatives and groups to one state political position in the Attorney General (AG). Unfortunately, the current AG has already shown their political partisanship by not charging a single individual in the First Energy scandal, the largest and most expensive known political scandal in Ohio history which has been known about as far back as at least 2020. So far only federal charges and lawsuits initiated by private citizens have been pursued in the courts.
- 5) The claim that this bill is meant to remove foreign money from politics is disingenuous and is nothing more than a smoke screen for partisan meddling of fair elections by bad actors in state government. Current laws already prohibit foreign money in politics. If the legislature was so concerned about foreign money or any dark money influence in politics, then they would have expanded this law to all political PACs and groups for all political offices statewide. The legislature has clearly shown that they do not want to fall under the same rules as those they seek to impose on Ohio citizens.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this partisan, undemocratic, anti-citizen, and unjust bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify. Please contact me if you have further questions.

Respectfully,

Christopher M. Hallahan

