

**OPPOSITION TESTIMONY OF ANDREA R. YAGODA HB NO. 1
HOUSE GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

Chair Peterson, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Humphrey and Members of the Ohio House Government Oversight Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before this committee today in opposition to HB No. 1 legislation on Campaign Finance Law regarding foreign nationals and statewide initiatives.

The Ohio legislature should not utilize its power to punish citizens who believe that they are not being represented by their elected officials and thus turn to initiatives /referenda to be heard. We made our voices heard in August, 2023 that we cherish the rights of initiative/referendum afforded us under the Ohio Constitution for over one hundred (100) years. Citizens like myself who choose to organize to make Ohio Great again should not be required to form a PAC which would only serve to exercise our Constitutional rights. This Bill will chill those rights which I believe it is the aim of the bill.

If you want to deal with dark money, let's deal with it across the board including campaigns of the members of this body.

The contribution of foreign money to influence domestic elections is already illegal under federal law, and these restrictions already apply to state elections, so why this bill and why now? I think we all know why.

Show us you still believe in Democracy and the Ohio Constitution and vote No on this bill.

As a closing note I just want to add that finding this bill was difficult to say the least. A search of the bill on the Ohio Legislature's website did not produce this

bill. One had to know to go to the committee and search for it. Why should it be so difficult for folks to find a bill when you are rushing to hearings thereon?

Thank You,

Andrea R. Yagoda