

June 22, 2026

Honorable Governor Mike DeWine,

We, the undersigned organizations, urge you to use your executive authority to veto House Bill (HB 472). The rushed decision to add provisions that would require a photo ID copy for absentee voting disproportionately impacts the disability and aging communities. With this provision, voters would have to either send a copy of their ID through the mail when requesting their ballot, show their ID to County Board of Elections workers if requesting in person, or use a “live capture” process through an online portal the Secretary of State’s office must now construct in time for voters to use for the 2027 elections^[1].

This legislation was rushed and did not provide an opportunity for a thorough review. In doing so, this leaves Ohioans at risk and may have detrimental unintended consequences for the populations that we serve. Many people with disabilities and aging adults rely on absentee voting to vote. The additional steps created by HB 472 to use absentee voting will make it harder for many of these individuals to vote. These populations often do not have access to the technology that would be required by the bill or have difficulties accessing independently due to accessibility barriers.

Additionally, utilizing a portal that requires individuals to upload a copy of a photo ID puts their security and personal information at risk. Requiring a photocopy of an ID does not increase security and photocopies are likely less secure than other forms of identification. We are also concerned about how the uploaded personal information could be used. In this bill there are no security guarantees or explanations of what happens to the data once uploaded. Every Ohio citizen deserves the right to cast their vote in private without the risk of their data and personal information being compromised.

Ohio already has a bipartisan election process to confirm the identity of those voting by mail. Voters already have to provide information when requesting an absentee ballot with their signature and either the last four of their social security number, driver’s license or state issued ID, and date of birth. They provide that information again when they submit their ballot.

[1] League of Women Voters Action Alert. Can be found here: <https://my.lwv.org/ohio/perrysburg-area/action-alert/hb472>

While we support the idea of making the election process smoother and more accessible for voters with disabilities and aging adults, it is important that such election changes be done in a thoughtful, more streamlined approach, that involves the voices of those impacted by the changes.

Every Ohioan expects our elections to be as secure, accessible, and efficient as possible. HB 472 will create additional burdens on individuals and create confusion at all levels of the process. In order to continue ensuring that all Ohioans have access to vote, please veto HB 472.

Sincerely,
Kerstin Sjoberg
CEO & President, Disability Rights Ohio



List of Organizational Sign-Ons:

- The Center for Disability Empowerment
- Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA)
- Linking Employment, Abilities and Potential (LEAP)
- Georgie Elson, Disability Advocate
- ACLU Ohio
- The Arc of Ohio
- Western Reserve Independent Living Center (WRILC)
- Jennifer Kucera, Chair, Ohio Olmstead Task Force (OOTF)
- Access Center for Independent Living (ACIL)
- Maria Matzik, Disabled Ohioan and Registered Voter
- Breaking Silences
- League of Women Voters of Ohio

