



Testimony in opposition to House Bill No. 2437

To: Members of the Committee on Elections

**Re: Testimony In Opposition to Bill No. 2437 relating to changing effective date of United States Citizenship requirements; amending K.S.A. 2011 Supp 25.2309 and repealing the existing section**

The Kansas State NAACP represents over 2000 members state-wide with 19 branches and is located within Region 4. In addition to Kansas, Region 4 includes the states of Missouri, Colorado, Minnesota, Iowa, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Wyoming, and South Dakota. We have members in communities of every city, county, and state within the United States representing all industries, statuses, races, creeds of color, sex and gender.

The Kansas State NAACP stands in opposition of this bill just as it stood in opposition of the Voter ID bill because it believes this bill requiring an amendment and the Voter ID bill suppresses voter registration and subsequent voting, acts that this organization has been fighting against to ensure fairness for all voters for over 50 plus years. It specifically suppresses voting rights because of the unnecessary steps potential voters need to take to ensure they have access to proper identification to get registered given economic and social hardships and challenges faced by many.

Specifically, the Kansas State NAACP, representing units across Kansas, move to stop the furtherance of this proposed amendment for the following reasons:

- 1) The amendment is a continuance in misleading representation that fraud is so significant that it warrants such measures as outlined in the approved bill and proposed amendment.
- 2) The amendment has the underlying purpose of intentional suppression and disfranchisement of voters by requiring subliminal "grandfather clauses" in the form of unnecessary paperwork or documentation without providing the appropriate measures or steps to reasonably accommodate potential voters timely so that voters are not adversely impacted as to election outcomes in the State of Kansas for the 2012 election.
- 3) Effective education as proposed by the Secretary of the State during the seeking of the passage of the Voter ID bill has yet to be implemented for citizens of Kansas to understand its requirements and limitations, thus suppressing citizens of Kansas in their voting rights.

- 4) The Secretary of State office has not taken due diligence to fully implement and measure the impact the Voter ID law has had on the public before bringing forth an amendment to push up the effective date to June 2012. This lack of diligence illustrates a degree of incompetence.
- 5) Effective processes to accommodate eligible new voters without identification has not been put in place for such voters to secure identification from divisions of driver's license agencies or other similar type agencies that provide such identification without cost. Further, there is no provision to provide birth certificates free of charge in order to satisfy the requirements for obtaining identification for voting purposes.
- 6) During a time when online registration and technology is prevalent, there are no provisions noted for providing immediate access for online voting registration.
- 7) Voter registration efforts are significantly hindered by grass root organizations such as the NAACP because registrants are faced with redundant efforts to meet voter identification requirements.
- 8) The Kansas citizens have already been scammed by the Secretary of State efforts as the SOS office indicated that a one step process would be in place (and it isn't) and that such education efforts would be implemented without financial costs (and financial costs to citizens have been increasing substantially). In my initial testimony against the Voter ID bill, I noted that I had significant doubt that such an effort could be implemented with minimal cost.
- 9) Such requirements have already added undue burden on taxpayers and the staff of various governmental offices during a time when we can ill afford such.
- 10) There has been no mention from the Secretary of State to the public as to voter identification being free of charge to those seeking to obtain such identification for voting purposes. Full disclosure is not provided by the Secretary of State office thus giving the impression that there is an underlying effort to deceive the citizens of the State of Kansas.
- 11) The Voter ID law and amendment are just plain **wrong** and takes us back in history when enhanced corruption reared its ugly head in our voting process through the implementation of poll taxes, residency requirements, rule variations, literacy and understanding tests, AND selective application against minorities.

Further, it is noted that the Kansas State NAACP believes this bill amendment and the Voter ID law should not be a part of the history of Kansas voting rights and reflects the State's inability by certain members of its legislative leadership to protect its citizens as the proposed bill and approved Voter ID bill perpetrates a fraud to the citizens of Kansas.

For the reasons noted above as well as others, the membership of the Kansas State NAACP ask the Committee to strike down the H.B 2437 and show the citizens of Kansas that it is capable of protecting all citizens from fraudulent and deceptive practices introduced by the Secretary of State in forcing such laws/amendments upon the citizens of Kansas.

Glenda Overstreet, President  
NAACP Kansas State Conference of Units  
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