



## National Association for the Advancement of Colored People - Topeka, KS Unit #4042

501 SE Jefferson Street, Suite 31, Topeka, Kansas 66607

Address Correspondence to: P.O. Box 1451, Topeka, KS 66601

Ph: 785 26-NAACP (266-2227) E-mail: [naacptopeka@cox.net](mailto:naacptopeka@cox.net)

**The Mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination.**

March 15, 2012

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Mr. Chairman and Members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to the Voter ID Bill. The National Association for The Advancement of colored People decries efforts to disenfranchise hundreds of eligible Kansas voters, where a disparate number of disenfranchised voters are African American and other racial and ethnic minorities, seniors, students, low-income Americans, disabled Americans, women and members of the military.

The Topeka Branch NAACP stands in opposition of this bill 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. It's another way of denying American citizens the ability to exercise their constitutional right afforded then under the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

This bill specifically suppresses voting rights because of the unnecessary steps potential voters must pursue to ensure they have the proper identification to get registered given the economic and social hardships faced by many.

A lack of education in a timely manner regarding the new requirements and other documents needed to register and vote will deny many the right to vote.

There is a very subtle message being implied here. As an American, an African American and a Kansan, I find this deplorable.

Many of these proposals appear to be a blatant partisan attempt to change the political outcome of the elections. An estimated 270,000 African American voters lack a qualifying photo ID.

The NAACP was instrumental in passing the 1965 Voting Right Act and subsequent reauthorizations, as well as the Motor – Voter Act 1993 and the Help America Voter Act of 2001. These laws have proven themselves to be a catalysts of a new era of democracy, resulting in the prohibition of federal, state, or local government from denying and oppressing citizens the right to vote.

47 years later I stand here today defending our right to vote. Voting is not a privilege but a right. It is obvious that after all of these years, same is not equal, and the struggle continues.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these comments.

**Ben J. Scott, Sr.**  
**President, Topeka Branch NAACP**