



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, country, 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) 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 in order for citizens of Kansas to understand its requirements and limitations, thus suppressing citizens of Kansas in their voting rights.
- 2) 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.
- 3) The amendment has the underlying purpose of intentional suppression of voters by requiring unnecessary paperwork or documentation without providing the appropriate measures or steps to reasonably accommodate potential voters timely so as to have an

adverse or significant impact on election outcomes in the State of Kansas for the 2012 election.

- 4) The Secretary of State office has not taken due diligence to fully implement and measure the impact the Voter ID bill has had on the public before bringing forth an amendment to push up the effective date. This lack of diligence shows 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.

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 along with others, the membership of the Kansas State NAACP ask the Committee to strike down the amendment to the bill and keep the effective date as originally submitted by the Voter ID law 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