



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

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.

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House Committee on Elections
Testimony on House Bill 2437
February 6, 2012

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition of House Bill No. 2437. 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 S.A.F.E. Act is another mean of Voter Suppression. It's another way of denying many American citizens the ability to exercise their constitutional right afforded them under the 15th Amendment.

There is a very subtle message in House Bill 2437. As an American, an African American, a Kansans, 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 of 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 citizen 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 continue.

Thanks for your time and consideration of these comments.

Ben J. Scott, Sr.
President Topeka Branch NAACP