

League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)

Testimony HB2437... FEB. 6, 2012

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Kansas LULAC opposes early implementation of Secretary of State voter ID plan

Mr. Chair and members of the committee, my name is Elias L. Garcia, Kansas LULAC State Director and I submit this testimony in opposition to all efforts that will lead to early implementation of HB 2437.

The Kansas League of Latin American Citizens is very concerned regarding the issues of Voter suppression as well as the need for a government-required ID. There remains a great deal of confusion at all levels of the public and state and local government regarding this new voter ID program and without question, there is a significant need for our Secretary of State to implement a quality public education program prior to even thinking about implementing any new voter processes and procedures in Kansans.

Kansas has had a common sense voter identification law that ensures that eligible voters are who they say they are on Election Day. Voters put the last four digits of Soc Sec. or Drivers License on their voter registration cards and give their signature at the poll. These four Soc. Security digits have proved very accurate for identifying US citizens.

America has never supported a position that says that a voter should have to pay money to vote as stated in the United States Constitution -- Amendment 24 - *The right of citizens of the United States to vote in any primary or other election for President or Vice President, for electors for President or Vice President, or for Senator or Representative in Congress, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State by reason of failure to pay poll tax or other tax.*

Honorable members of the committee we ask that you support the right of Kansans . LULAC believes that all due diligence must be taken in efforts to ensure that Kansans are clear on this important issue and that we are not suppressing voter participation by implementing a new voter program without adequate or sufficient public voter education.

The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) is the oldest and largest Latino civil rights organization in the United States. LULAC advances the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, health and civil rights of Hispanic Americans through community-based programs operating at more than 900 councils nationwide.