BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

PUBLIC HEARING ON
VOTER IDENTIFICATION

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2013

ROOM 643
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
300 NORTH SALISBURY STREET
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA
4:05 P.M.

REPRESENTATIVE DAVID R. LEWIS, CHAIRMAN

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PROCEEDINGS 4:05 P.M.

CHAIRMAN: If I could have your attention, please. The Chair would like to welcome all of our guests today. The members of the Committee will be arriving in a very short time, as we have just adjourned on the House floor. We will take care of a little bit of housekeeping prior to the beginning of receipt of testimony.

First of all, out these doors, directly in front of the Chair, guests may find both a -- both restrooms and also a water fountain. We also have water and coffee in the rear of the room. The Chair understands that there are also guests present in Room 544, which is one floor down from here. And I extend them welcome, as well.

Each speaker received a number as they signed in. Speakers will be called in groups of ten to queue up along the right side of the room. When the Sergeant at Arms holds up a sign within the range of ten including your number, please move to join that line. Speakers who are not in line when called will be moved to the back or the end of the list. If you are seated in Room 544, the Sergeant at Arms in that room will also indicate when a new group of ten is being called, so that you can move up to Room 643 at that time.
Because seating is limited, after speaking, if seating is no longer available in this room, or if you would like to make room for other individuals, you may also listen to this public hearing in Room 544, one floor directly below this room. The elevators to get to that room, again, are directly out this door and on the Chair's right.

Each speaker may speak for up to three minutes. The Sergeant at Arms is directed to keep time and will hold up signs indicating when your time has nearly expired and when your time has expired. In order to accommodate the maximum number of speakers, the audience is respectfully requested to refrain from applause or other commentary on speaker remarks. Each speaker and members of the audience are asked to maintain order and civility in the presentation of their remarks. Individuals who disrupt will be escorted from the room by the Sergeant at Arms staff.

The Chair would like to point out that the testimony that is presented today is being transcribed by a licensed Court Reporter. This transcription will be made available to all who request it, and we will put a link to the Committee website to help facilitate that. With that, I know that you are here and -- to offer your input and advice on this important subject. And the
Chair regrets that we are delayed for only a few moments while the members make their way from the House floor. So with that, the Chair would ask for everyone to please just remain in their seats and we will begin in just a moment.

(Pause.)

The Chair recognizes the presence of a quorum in the room. And, therefore, we will begin to receive the input that is -- that has been prepared for us. As was previously announced, each speaker was assigned a number when they checked in, and the Chair will call them by that number.

Speaker number one is Jay DeLancy. Mr. DeLancy, welcome. You have the floor, sir, for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MR. DELANCY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is this on?

CHAIRMAN: If you will, Mr. DeLancy, this will not count against your time. Let's make sure that microphone was ---

MR. DELANCY: Okay. It is on now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Distinguished Committee members, thank you for having me here today and thank you for having this hearing -- this follow-on hearing. And most importantly, thank you to those in the audience who came
here and drove at great sacrifice. We have had people who have driven from all over the state to come to this hearing today. So thank you for bringing -- all the way -- people from Wilson, I believe there are some people from Wilmington. And I would have them holler out where they are from, but we have -- not the decorum of this room.

Ladies and gentlemen, the citizens of North Carolina want a real voter ID bill. Now, in the past, we have had other activists who have come forward, and you wonder, "Who is this guy," "Who are these people?" These are activists, too. So what credibility do we have? We have done research, we have worked hard. And I thought I would laugh the last time I was here. I heard someone from the eviscerate N.C. crowd who said, "Bring us data, bring us truth, bring us facts."

So we are bringing you the facts today. We are -- you know, it is like we could sit here and talk about voter fraud in theory, and in general, but today what we are going to talk about are some real cases that your State government couldn't find or didn't want to find. And we concluded that instead of being proactive on voter fraud as opposed to vote fraud and how our State government, in particular -- let me try that again. Our State Board of Elections, in their view toward voter
fraud, is more protective than proactive.

We are very disappointed with them. We have done research. We have done the kind of data mining that we could do a lot better with it if we had the kind of information that our Election Board has. But the fact is, they don't care to look at it; they are too busy doing other things.

So what we are going to do today is give you some of that evidence. We are going to name names. And all these names are in public because, guess what: all these names have already been turned over to public officials in the past and they have been ignored. And for example, last week -- rather two -- two to three weeks ago, our biggest catch of the year was finding 33 people who had registered to vote in both North Carolina and Florida. Actually, we found more than 300, but 33 of them had actually -- we thought they voted.

We turned them over, because we know the way our State Board of Elections deals with such information that we knew we couldn't trust them, I am sad to say. So we turned the information over both to the Florida Secretary of State's office and to the North Carolina Board of Elections.

And finally, they were able to admit that five of them had actually voted in both elections -- rather,
in one election from both locations: by absentee ballot in Florida and by in-person here or vice versa. The point was, these are felons. These are indictable felonies for voting twice in a presidential election. And yet, even still, their names are not public because unless the local district attorney wants to prosecute, this vote fraud didn't happen. So we now understand why there is no voter fraud in North Carolina.

And ladies and gentlemen, it comes down to the meaning of the word "is." This has got to change. You have got to get us photo ID and not just pretend, but real photo ID. And I am getting a hug, so thank you and God bless.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, sir. And speaker number two, Ms. Denise Stetter. And I apologize if I misspoke your name, ma'am.

MS. STETTER: You didn't. That is great. Hi. Thank you for this opportunity to speak to you today. The right to vote is so vital, so precious, that anything that impedes or prevents people from exercising this right, of course, has to be considered very, very carefully. In fact, anything that impedes or prevents a person from exercising any of their Constitutional rights has to be considered very, very carefully. However, just because it is a Constitutional right doesn't mean that
anyone, anywhere, anytime gets to exercise it.

Consider the Second Amendment, for example: the right to keep and bear arms. We scrutinize and/or prevent people from exercising this right all the time. When one wishes to legally purchase a firearm, they must prove that they are who they say they are. They must show identification in the application process and at the time of sale. Their backgrounds are examined, although perhaps not enough or often enough for some, but that is a different bill.

I don't know if there is anyone -- well, I am sure there is a few here and there, but I don't know of anyone that would disagree with this, that it is imperative that we prevent some people from acquiring firearms. No? Now, this same argument can be applied to the right to vote, as well. It is imperative that we prevent those that are not eligible to vote from voting. And it is essential that we make sure the person casting the vote is really that person.

Suppose we were as careless when selling firearms as we are when it comes to voting. Careless, irresponsible, willing to look the other way time and time again when fraud is committed. I know this might sound a little bit dramatic, but some people believe that being as careless about who is buying a weapon is as
dangerous as being careless about who is casting a vote. I happen to be one of those people. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, ma'am. Speaker number three did not sign up. Speaker number four, Maria Gaither, you have the floor, ma'am.

MS. GAITHER: Good afternoon. Thank you for this opportunity to speak to this Committee. My name is Maria Gaither, and I am a Certified Public Accountant with over 24 years of experience, including ten years as an auditor. As an auditor with Deloitte & Touche, I learned to evaluate internal controls, identify areas of risk and propose solutions to mitigate risks. Our current election laws create areas of risk for the potential for voter fraud. I will give you an example.

I can go to any polling location in my county during early voting, provide the names and addresses of my neighbors, obtain a ballot in their names, and vote. This would be illegal, but the chance of being caught are slim. An effective way to mitigate that risk is to require a valid photo ID issued by the government, such as a North Carolina driver's license, other cards issued by the DMV for non-drivers, a U.S. Military ID or a U.S. passport.

In 2012 I served as a poll observer for the primary general elections. I observed people of all ages
and races coming to the polls to cast a ballot. Many of
them had their driver's license in hand, even though it
was not required. One of the early voting sites I
observed on multiple days was at Tally (phonetic) Student
Center at N.C. State University. Here I saw hundreds of
students go through the voting process. And those
students had their ID in hand.

If a student can successfully navigate the
college application process, I have confidence that they
can obtain a valid North Carolina driver's license. The
proposed bill provides funding for a driver's license for
those who qualify for financial assistance. The proposed
bill will ask for some college IDs to be used in lieu of
a driver's license, which should be removed from the
bill, along with the employee identification card.

An employee identification card and a college
card do not mitigate risks because voter's address is not
included. I have my employee ID. It has my name and
picture; doesn't say where I live. And it can be
fraudulently prepared in some cases. An expired driver's
license should be permitted to senior citizens, but not
all ages, because the DMV had weak controls in the past
for issuing driver's licenses.

As a reminder, nobody can buy certain types of
over-the-counter medications, such as Sudafed, without a
driver's license, military ID, or passport. Certain
prescription medications, for example, many pain
medications, have the same requirements. You cannot buy
these medications with a college or employee ID. I am
sure people of all ages, races, incomes, and party
affiliations have the need for regulated medications. So
why haven't we heard about the hardships caused by the
strict photo ID requirements for those important

purchases?

The proposed bill has been watered down from
the bill passed in the previous session. Now is the
time -- now is not the time to go wobbly. Now is the
time to do the right thing, to strengthen the integrity
of our voting process in North Carolina. Make the proper
revisions to remove the employee and college ID cards and
pass the bill.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, ma'am.
Speaker number 5 did not sign in. Speaker number 6, Mr.
Hartley. You have the floor, sir, for a time not to
exceed three minutes.

MR. HARTLEY: Thank you for allowing me to

speak today. My name is Herb Hartley. I am from Sims,
North Carolina, in Wilson County. A couple of weeks ago
I went into a Starbucks Coffee shop to buy a gift card
for my daughter's birthday. I didn't have any cash with
me, so I used my credit card. The waitress there asked
me for my photo ID before she would ring that up.

Consider some of the things that we require a
photo ID for: applying for a job, driving, buying a car,
registering your car, applying for Medicare and Medicaid,
apply for Social Security, bank transactions of all
kinds, boarding an airplane, going to a doctor's office
or a hospital. Even here in North Carolina, if you want
to hunt or fish you have to show your ID to get your
license. Buying and selling scrap copper, cigarettes,
and, of course, using your credit card -- the list goes
on, but I think you get the point.

Every citizen of North Carolina of legal age
has or can get a North Carolina-issued ID. It is called
a driver's license. Those who do not have a license can,
with proper identification, apply for one from the North
Carolina DMV, and it doesn't cost much. Across the
country and in North Carolina, voter fraud in all its
various forms has grown with every single election cycle.
And photo ID is the answer. Photo ID can prevent and
deter impersonation fraud at the polls, voting under
fictitious voter registrations, double voting by
individuals, and voting by illegal aliens.

At the last election cycle in 2012, I voted.
And not one person in the polling place knew who I was or
asked me to prove who I was. That should simply not be the case. I have seen statistics that show the majority of people in this country, including many Hispanics and minority groups, support voter ID laws. I am not going to bore you with a bunch of numbers.

Voter ID laws already exist in many states and have been upheld as constitutional by courts. Even Mexico, as corrupt as it is, requires photo ID and a thumbprint before you can vote. This is probably the most important part. Every fraudulent vote that is cast, even if it is only one fraudulent vote, dilutes and calls into question the integrity of the entire vote tally and the trust the citizen from North Carolina have in the voting process that it is honest, transparent, fair, and impartial. One person should have one vote and that person's ID should be verified with a current, non-expired color photo ID before they cast their vote. It doesn't get any more complicated than that [sic].

In conclusion, our constitutional republic demands an honorable election system. Voting is serious business, much more than driving a car, cashing a check, or buying a cup of coffee. I urge you to vote in favor of a non-compromised photo ID voter law for North Carolina. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, sir.
Speaker number seven, Ms. Jaeb. The Chair apologizes if I mispronounced your name, but you have the floor for a time not to exceed three minutes, ma'am.

MS. JAEB: Hi. My name is Rebecca Jaeb, and I live in Wake County. Many opponents of voter integrity justify it by denying that there is no voter fraud in North Carolina. But we respectfully disagree. Recently, in the last election, they compared Florida and North Carolina voting records and found that Teresa Murray of Guilford County -- she is currently being investigated for interstate voter fraud.

Another case was Robert D. Moore, of Mecklenburg County. He died on August 13th of 2007, but somehow managed to vote on November 6th of 2012.

There is another case recently that is being investigated by the Buncombe County Board of Elections. And it was with a voter named Kelsey Carol Heitzman (phonetic), and she appears to have voted illegally by exploiting a provision of the law called "One Stop Voting," or "Same Day Registration." According to the Buncombe County Board of Election documents, Kelsey Heitzman registered to vote on October 28th, 2012 at an early voting location. During the Board's routine follow up mail to this voter, they were unable to make any further contact. This leads us to believe that a crime
1 has occurred.

2 One voter was disenfranchised because of this particular vote, which was stolen. As of February of this year, that voter was coded "confirmation not returned." If just these cases were the only ones, then many of us would just shrug our shoulders. But it appears that this is the pattern of fraudulent voting. And in Buncombe County, there were 63 other voters who got away with this same type of voter fraud. And all those votes were counted.

3 What was the impact of this? Well, their county commissioners race was decided by 18 votes -- just 18. So there is no doubt that real voter fraud changed the outcome of that election. While voter fraud would not have prevented by -- by voter ID [sic], real voter ID may have deterred the perpetrator from attempting the crime that we are alleging. While some will deny or downplay the cases of fraud, I ask you how many voters should be allowed -- voter's vote should be allowed to be stolen. Just one is too many.

4 So the people of North Carolina deserve to have laws which reduce election fraud. And this is your chance to get it right. So I ask you to remove the voter fraud-friendly loopholes in our election fraud and get real voter ID in North Carolina. Thank you.
CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, ma'am.

Ladies and gentlemen, as a point of clarification, you may wonder why I call out the numbers of people that are not here. The Court Reporter keeps track of who is actually speaking. So the Chair will make you aware that numbers 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 and 13 are not here. Therefore, speaker number 14 is Mr. Mark Sligh. Sir?

That is not you. The Chair apologizes. Which number is it?

MR. PIZZO: I am 14, but that is not my name. You have the name wrong.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair would like to ask speaker 14 to come up and to please state your name. And the Chair will scratch it off the list.

MR. PIZZO: Thank you. My name is John Pizzo, and I am the research director for the Voter Integrity Project in North Carolina, where I lead a research team of 23 dedicated fellow citizens who challenge the erroneous notion that voter fraud does not happen in North Carolina. On the contrary, our research has shown it is widespread and pervasive. It takes many forms, it is getting worse, and is more likely to continue to get worse until existing loopholes are closed.

As a nonpartisan organization, our research
does not take into account gender, race, age, or party affiliation. We simply look at the facts. There are various ways that voter fraud is committed that we have identified, which is multiple voting within state, which is impersonation voting, which is non-citizen voting, which is felony voting, which is postmortem voting, which is dual state voting, to name a few.

I have a data table from the Board of Elections that shows that they charged 400 voters in a period from 2004 to 2009 with voter fraud. They were referred to district attorneys who never prosecuted a single case. Apparently, for those who commit vote fraud in North Carolina, there is -- there are no consequences. Many would be surprised to know that undocumented immigrants can obtain a voter registration card by simply checking a box that says, "I am a citizen." Knowing that the state does not prosecute cases of fraud only emboldens such activity.

Now for some numbers. Last year we found 28,000 deceased voters who remain on the voter rolls in this state years after their death. Despite the lack of a Social Security number and a date of birth, we are confident that our accuracy rate is in excess of 97 percent, and in counties where we filed challenges, it was a hundred percent. I am getting the short -- I have
a lot more on voter fraud. I will skip to the end of my remarks.

I do want to mention that the same day registration voting is a very serious issue. In the County of Wake alone, there are still 406 voters who took advantage of same day registration in voting and cannot be found. One wonders if they even exist. I wish I had more time to go into the many irregularities and provable voter fraud in the state that we have uncovered. None of us have ever received a dime for our efforts, and as I reflect on it, that is a good thing.

No one in this state, including the ladies and gentlemen sitting in front of me, should ever accept voter fraud, either as a method to skew election results in their own favor or anyone else's without taking legislative action to close the loopholes, audit the system, correct what is wrong with it. And to those out there who continue to deny voter fraud problems exist in North Carolina, rebuke our data or stop lying about it.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, sir. And for the record, Mr. Pizzo was signed up in slot number 13. The Chairman misspoke and the Chair apologizes for that. The next speaker will be Ms. Katie O'Connor. You have the floor for a time not to exceed three minutes.
MS. O'CONNOR: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is Katie O'Connor. And I am a staff attorney with Advancement Project, a nonpartisan national civil rights organization with a voter protection program in North Carolina. I have three minutes today and I want to dispel three myths. The first is that no one is affected by these laws. Nothing could be further from the truth. I am going to tell you a couple of individual stories about people who are disenfranchised by voter ID laws like that in HB 589.

There is a lawsuit in Texas regarding voter ID law there. And the court heard testimony from Victoria Rodriguez, a Latina student who didn't have a driver's license because her mother's car insurance would increase if she had gotten one. She had a student ID and she was able to use that for everything, including getting on a flight to DC to testify in that trial. But that ID wouldn't have been sufficient for her to vote.

When South Carolina sought the clearance (phonetic) of its voter ID law, several impacted voters intervened to tell their stories. Amanda Wolfe (phonetic), for instance, had trouble locating her birth certificate because she was adopted. And when she was finally able to get that document, she was told she would need a marriage license and a divorce decree in order to
get an ID. Each of these steps took a lot of time and
money and attorney assistance that she didn't have.

James Duboise and Junior Glover (phonetic),
two African-American men from South Carolina, both lack
an original birth certificate altogether and would have
to require attorney assistance in order to petition for a
delayed birth certificate. Similarly, the lead plaintiff
in a case challenging Pennsylvania's voter ID law
actually marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in
Macon, Georgia during the 1960s, and has voted on a
regular basis since she became eligible. Nevertheless,
this 93-year-old African-American woman has never driven
and has never had a driver's license, had to make three
attempts to get her birth certificate, and was finally
given an ID after that.

The second myth I want to dispel here is that
there is a justification for this law. We know that
there is not. Actually, we know that there is not, and
we have heard a lot about that. But there is one more
thing I want to talk about with the people who are
impacted by these laws.

We know that in Indiana, in 2008, 21 percent
of the ID-related provisional ballots went uncounted. 21
percent of those ballots were not counted because people
couldn't show up to show ID. We also know that in 2012,
22 percent of ID-related provisional ballots -- I am sorry, that is 22 percent were counted. That means 78 percent were uncounted. Finally, we know that in Georgia, 1,586 votes have gone uncounted since that state adopted an ID law. That is 1,586 votes too many for no justification. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, ma'am. The Chair has been -- is not aware that speakers 14 or 15 have signed in, so speaker 16 is Mr. Mike Binion. Sir, you have the floor for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MR. BINION: Good morning, my name -- or good afternoon. My name is Mike Binion. I am from Wake County. I would like to add one more voter integrity example here and then address another issue.

Consider the recent case investigation by the Voter Integrity Project in North Carolina, it featured a voter named Viola Patel (phonetic). This person of interest provided his -- her non-U.S. Citizen status to the North Carolina court system after voting in an election. According to their own documents, the Wake County Clerk of Courts received evidence from Viola Patel that disqualified her to vote -- disqualified the voter form [sic] jury duty -- jury duty on the basis that not being a U.S. citizen. The actual date of the jury disqualification was 9/4/2008, but a vote was recorded in
this person's name 11/2/2004. I repeat: the vote occurred before the jury disqualification date, so we view this as a clear case of voter fraud.

And in respect to disenfranchised voters, that if they cannot require [sic] an ID suitable for voting, I suggest that we are addressing the wrong rules or the wrong laws. That should be made available to anybody who needs a voter ID, because it is critical that our votes have integrity, not a matter of circumstance. So if a person cannot get a voter ID, I suggest that we are looking in the wrong places to correct the issue, and we should be looking at what is preventing them from getting an ID but remain -- but keep the integrity of our voter votes in place, because I don't want to give up my vote to somebody who is not legally voting. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, sir.

Speaker number 17 is not signed in. Speaker number 18 is Jonathan Bandy. You have the floor, sir, for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MR. BANDY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good to see you, Mr. Chairman, honorable members of the Committee. Thank you for allowing me to speak today.

My name is Jonathan Bandy. I am from Cary, North Carolina, and I am here to represent the North Carolina Federation of Young Professional Republicans. I
I am here to offer today some reasons to the liberal arguments that you have heard during this entire process. Liberals are trying to convince the public to oppose voter ID laws by arguing that there are scads of people that would be disenfranchised or, if you will, suppressed if they are required to present some sort of government issued ID in order to vote. I have a lot of trouble responding to this argument because it is very short-sighted.

First, very few people lack photo IDs. This includes the abjectly poor, many of whom who need IDs to qualify for government programs designed for their benefits, including welfare and food stamps. Second, there is an endless range of activities for which photo ID is required, such as driving, purchasing alcohol, cigarettes, purchasing a firearm, picking up a package, renting an apartment, picking up a prescription, enrolling in college, cashing a check. And I could go on and on and on.

Third, the race card argument. Voter ID is not suppressing minorities, as well as other groups that are supposedly unable to comply with these simple regulations. There is nothing racist about a procedure that can help prevent people who aren't citizens or who aren't legally registered from committing fraud.
Analyses between voter ID and Jim Crow poll taxes are completely absurd.

While segregationist laws sought to create fraudulent results, voter integrity laws have the opposite goal. What is racist is the notion that an African-American and an Hispanic voter who don't have an ID are incapable of getting one. So why are Liberals really so opposed to these laws? I believe Liberals are opposed as the same reason conservatives are in favor. They are both inclined to believe voter fraud is happening. The difference is that voter fraud benefits Liberals.

I have seen myself how relatively simple it would be for me to commit voter fraud. I have a roommate and he doesn't go vote that often. But I could simply show up and say I am him and vote twice. So let me finish my words by stating the obvious. Ensuring the integrity of our electoral process should not be a partisan issue. All citizens must be allowed to vote, but it is totally reasonable, as well as constitutional and feasible for all qualified voters to be able to prove their identify.

I hope you enact the voter ID law that requires a government issued photo identification that does not expire. I know my generation needs a restored
faith in the voting process and a restored confidence in our vote -- in our elected officials. If you want to take a step to change voter -- young people's voters' apathy, this is your first step. If you support voter ID, members of this Committee, I ask you to join with your fellow citizens and sign our petition at isupportvoterid.com.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you. The next speaker who has signed up is speaker number 22, Mr. John Garris. You have the floor for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MR. GARRIS; Thank you, sir. I am John Garris from Roanoke Rapids in Halifax County, where I have lived most of my life with the exception of nine years of military service. So I have observed the process of voting in Halifax County for most of my life. I have observed it as a voter, a poll observer, and most recently as a chairman for the Halifax County Republican Party. And I am here to tell you that voter fraud is alive and well in Halifax County.

This fraud is not hard to see because of the very blatant manner in which some of it is done. Some would have you believe that voter fraud does not exist. But I cannot accept that. Am I to believe that Halifax County is the only weed in the tomato patch? I believe
that when someone has trouble remembering their address and starts making guesses as to where they live, that a voter photo ID might even help that poor soul find their way home.

I do not wish to distract from the seriousness of this situation. I merely wish to get your attention. Voter fraud is a crime, and when left unchallenged, destroys the integrity of the process and disenfranchises people from voting, especially honest voters.

I can give you many examples of voter fraud, but the one who troubles me the most is the abuse of the rights of those unable to even realize their rights are being abused. I speak of the mentally disadvantaged. We had one parent come to us seeking advice when he realized that his chronologically adult daughter, who spends most of the week in a care facility, was taken to vote. She has the mind of an eight-year-old, and her father has spent a lot of money and time and effort to get guardianship for his daughter. So it was a surprise to him when she voted.

And upon talking to her, he realized that his daughter who had just voted didn't know the difference between Mickey Mouse, Barack Obama or Mitt Romney. What happened to their protection of their rights, the rights of the family members who have legal guardianship over
their loved ones, or do the workers at the care facility have the rights to that vote?

Voting is a right, a privilege, and a duty. And every effort should be made to guarantee the integrity of the process to make it fair to everyone. Stop the fraud, restore integrity to voting, and support voter photo ID. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, sir. The next speaker is speaker number 25, Debbie Raner. I apologize if I mispronounced your name, ma'am. You have the floor for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MS. RANER: I am just a mom. I am a mom that just values honesty and integrity. I try to teach my kids to always be honest and live their life with utmost integrity. I took a lot of hours of my extremely hectic day today to drive here because I believe that these particular values are under attack, just simply by our current voting system. I have always voted, but I never really paid attention until this last election how easy it would be to cheat.

I stood outside the polls, especially in early voting, and just watched people. What I observed is utterly appalling. I saw one man drive up with someone who clearly could not sit by themself, was clearly not coherent, was quite elderly, could not stand. Somebody
came out to the car. The man driving held the person's hand, made her sign the sheet, and voted for her. I watched this happen.

Again, I am just a mom and this is just one example. I could go on and on. I then watched others walk up and just give their address the -- and I thought, anybody could say that they were me. Anybody could walk into another precinct and say they were somebody else. I could do the same thing. As long as I knew somebody's name and somebody's address, I could go vote for them. Then I realized that if one person did this, my vote was invalidated.

And that is not fair. That is not fair to me and it is not fair to my children that are coming behind me. They are waiting. They are watching for the values of honesty and integrity of the people that are running this state. I realize that there is -- I seem to be living in a situation where the society doesn't seem to believe in the honesty and integrity that I do.

Having to show identification to exercise this precious right to vote is the only logical way to make sure a system in North Carolina would not allow cheating. Even the U.N. workers that were flown in to watch our proceedings agree to that.

Please help my vote to count. Don't let it be
canceled out by somebody else that is willing to cheat.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, ma'am.

The next speaker is speaker number 27, Joanne Empie. The Chair apologizes if I mispronounced your name, ma'am.

You have the floor for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MS. EMPIE: Thank you. I am a volunteer in Raleigh for the Voter Integrity Project. We are fortunate that we do have the right to vote. But with rights come responsibilities. Voters have the responsibility to prove they are eligible to vote.

Voters are used to proving their identity, as other speakers have talked about, and I do agree with removing college ID and employer ID from the law.

I would like to address -- discuss the argument that fraud is not an issue in elections. There are signs that it is big business. Representative Dave Lewis reported from the floor of the North Carolina House that in the 2008 election, 91,000 North Carolina voters had their registration confirmation mailing returned as undeliverable. 91,000 people were not where they said they lived when they voted. This raises a big red flag. In North Carolina, President Obama won the election that year by 14,000 votes.
For the 2012 election, there were approximately 14,000 returned voter registration cards for Wake County. There are figures that this is much larger. And the Voter Integrity Project will be investigating this for the many suspicious unverifiable same day registrations from this election. The Civitas Institute has documented that the North Carolina State Board of Elections conspired with a private company working for the Obama campaign to facilitate a form of online voter registration for the 2012 general election. More than 11,000 people were allowed to register online, in violation of State law.

Just before Easter, President Obama signed an executive order establishing Presidential Commission on Election Registration, which will consider the number, location, management, operation, and design of polling places, training, and recruitment, the number of poll voters, the efficient management of voter rolls and poll books, voter education, and voting accessibility for individuals with disabilities, limited English proficiency, and other special needs. The President is already campaigning for Nancy Pelosi to return as Speaker of the House in 2014. We also need to be ready in 2014.

The voters needs continue to change and become more sophisticated. We need photo voter ID to
effectively document eligible voters, prevent fraud, and increase public confidence, as other speakers have said. It is easier to prevent fraud than identify it after the vote is already cast. It is time for voter ID.

President Obama is going to be ready in 2014 and so should we. I do understand the Federal law prevents us from meeting this type of a time line in 2014. It is time for North Carolina government to be accountable. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, ma'am. The next speaker is speaker number 35, Dick Hilliard. You have the floor, sir, for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MR. HILLIARD: Mr. Chair, distinguished members of the Legislature, my friends, and other fellow citizens of this fine state of North Carolina, in late 1776, this nation was formed to allow you all to pursue life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. If that pursuit of happiness happens to be that you would liberate my TV set from my bedroom, there is regulations against that. Even my right to free speech this afternoon, intentionally and responsibly is limited to three minutes. Voter fraud is just as insidious as that.

Consider the recent case investigated by the Buncombe County, County Board of Elections. It featured
a voter named Robert Joseph Manuel, II (phonetic). This person of interest appears to have voted illegally by exploiting provision of the law called "One Stop Voting" or "Same Day Registration." According to their own documents, Buncombe County Board of Elections, Robert Manuel registered to vote on 10/22/2012 at an early voting location. During routine mail followup of this voter, they were unable to make any further contact. This leaves us to believe that a crime was committed.

One voter was disenfranchised because another voter stole the vote, just like the TV set. And as of February, this voter was coded "confirmation not returned."

If only one voter did this type of fraud, we would shrug it off. We probably all would. But there are 63 counts in Buncombe County. And as already mentioned, just to repeat it again, the margin for the county commissioners was only 18 votes. Certainly it leaves us to believe that somebody was elected illegally.

I want to remind all of us may have been here in the other hearing, I remember there was many more people saying that we were onerous in fees and so forth, but they happen to have enough money to bring three buses from Charlotte to protest a voter law. It seems to me it would have took less time and less money just to drive them to the driver -- to the North Carolina Division of
Motor Vehicles and get a registration.

The one good thing about this provision, I am currently holding in my pocket my permanent ID. It will expire post-70. Hallelujah. I will look young forever -- younger. And I will remind all that my wife last summer was overcome by heat -- two summers ago. I tried to take her to the Northern Wake Hospital. I showed them my ID, I showed my insurance, I showed Medicare cards. They would not admit her until she showed her picture ID. And she could barely hold her head up.

It is time we change this. We need to protect the rights of all citizens. And I thank you for this opportunity to speak. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, sir. The next speaker known to the Chair is speaker number 42, Mr. Guy Smith. Welcome, sir. You have the floor for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MR. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, members of the Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to be here. I look at this in a little different direction when I hear people speak of voter suppression. I am a small business person. I travel all over the state. And I think the fact we don't have voter photo ID suppresses the vote.
I talk to people in businesses that I do business with every day, and they don't vote because they say, "Well, what does it matter? My vote is not going to count because somebody is going to show up and vote and there is no reason to prove that they can or can't legally do so."

I think that we need to tighten up this process. I think that we would see a higher turnout once we have a requirement because I think our fellow citizens will feel more comfortable that their vote will count once. And thank you very much for your time.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, sir. The next speaker known to the Chair is speaker number 53, Art Wilson. Welcome, sir. You have the floor for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MR. WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The right to vote has been belabored and the value has gotten little notice. A constant fact is that without absolute identification of a voter, nothing prevents the democratic rule of one person, one vote from being violated. That is the power -- the value of a vote. A vote open to manipulation is just a glib political exercise.

There are four steps that must be taken. Photo ID is the first step in protecting voter ID
integrity. Is it perfect? No. But it is infinitely
better than the IDs that can be produced by a child in
middle school and taken that way. And it is a step in
the right direction.

Abolishment of same day registration voting --
that is the most direct route to fraud. It is physically
impossible to vote -- to verify registration in the time
allowed before the voter is officially reconciled. And,
yes, illegal votes have been done that way. Our county
district attorneys have just made little or no effort at
prosecution.

Provisional ballot jurisdiction must be
limited on election day to precinct, not county. Have
provisional ballots numbered so they can be retrieved for
verification.

Our State Board of Elections ruled a voter
within a county could vote provisional ballot in any
precinct. That has to be changed, and registered voters
in the wrong precinct be directed to the proper location.
Just in Wake County, over 4,000 of these provisional
ballots were made that wound up with 60 percent of them
being rejected because of errors. It created havoc with
the precinct officials trying to do the work, extra hours
for the staff, loss of a lot of dollars just for nothing.

College students are not citizens like
everybody else [sic]. Preferential legislation permits registration at a college or university to become valid residency. That has to be challenged. That automatically is two votes for a student.

So what if casting your vote becomes a little more difficult (incomprehensible) security of it. We are not playing Bingo; we are trying to vote. We are preserving our legacy and protecting the next generation. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, sir. Speaker number 54, Alexandra Brown. Ms. Brown, welcome, ma'am. You have the floor for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MS. BROWN: Thank you. My name is Alexandra Brown. I go by "Sandy." I have a wonderful husband, Rick, and three beautiful kids. And they are the reason I am here. I used to teach here in Wake County. And the first time I was in this building was with a group of teachers. We were -- had teacher training at St. Augustine's College. And we came down here about a bill.

And that was pretty much the extent of my political involvement until last fall, when I decided to start volunteering. I volunteered as a poll observer for early voting. One Sunday, the first one and a half hours
of my four-hour shift, so many people were coming in that had so much trouble recalling their address, and it made me really start to wonder. I was standing near the voter registration same day table, I didn't even realize at that point that you could register to vote and vote the same day.

And I am standing near there and an elderly woman came up to me. She was accompanied by a young man, and she asked me if she had to register in every county they went to. I was speechless. I wasn't allowed to speak, anyway. But in my heart, I was so dismayed. I was just writing in my notebook, you know, "I don't know why I bother to vote. What is going on here?"

I just didn't realize the corruption that I felt I was seeing. And I wondered if I should even bother to vote or do anything at all. Well, I guess I did decide to do something because I am here.

But I would like to say that we live in a country that has seen many generations fight for freedom and no one should be denied the right to vote. Our election should also be free, they should be free from intimidation, they should be free from fraud, and they should be free from corruption. Otherwise, there is no point in elections, and we don't really live in a free society.
I would like to make three points about voter ID. Number one, voter ID will curtail and -- curtail fraud and corruption in elections. Number two, voter ID makes life easier for disadvantaged voters who don't have a form of photo ID. Without photo ID, anyone is at a distinct disadvantage in our society. Voter ID allows the use of 21st century election systems. We don't live in the 1700s, the 1800s, or the 1900s. We live in the 21st century.

As for the cost, the government can certainly figure out to get a voter ID photo into someone's hands. We currently have voter ID cards -- registration cards mailed to every registered voter, and no one even needs to present them when they vote. We need to add photos to these voter cards and actually use them. Is preserving our free elections not worth it? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, ma'am. And the next speaker is speaker number 57, Lara Gutman. Welcome, ma'am. You have the floor for a time not to exceed three minutes.

DR. GUTMAN: Thank you. My name is Lara Gutman. I am a pediatrician. I have been a pediatrician for over 50 years, and in North Carolina for over 40 years. I am also a judge for the Board of Elections, and I come because of my concerns about the way the Board --
the elections are currently being implemented.

   I have heard a great deal to the effect that
there is not voter fraud in North Carolina. I happen to
share the opinion that my fellow citizens are by and
large, a very moral and law abiding group of people. And
I appreciate that sense of confidence in our fellow
citizens.

   However, as a pediatrician, I am here to tell
you that it is a very bad thing to provide a very
attractive temptation to people to engage in illegal
activities. And because voting is so important, and
currently very, very important, this is -- having weak
voter laws such as we currently have is a major
temptation for otherwise persons who would be law abiding
to -- I mean, we are all fragile humans and we can all be
tempted, as we all know. So this is an intolerable
temptation to our fellow citizens, and we should not be
putting up with this in any way.

   As I said, in general, I think things are well
with our citizens. However, I would like to bring your
attention to a particular case, which I view is
egregious. Cardoza McCullum (phonetic) was born in June
of 1924 -- this occurred in Durham County, by the way, my
home -- and died in August of 2002.

   Either there was a miracle of some sort or
this person's identity was stolen, and Cardoza voted --
remember, Cardoza died in 2002 -- Cardoza voted in 2003,
Cardoza voted in 2004, Cardoza voted twice in 2008, and
Cardoza voted twice in 2012. The last three times that
Cardoza voted was by absentee ballot, which I view as one
of the particularly attractive means of subverting
somebody else's vote.

And I want to point out as others have, that
every fraudulently cast vote expunges, destroys,
obliterates, wipes out, nullifies, undoes, and
extinguishes the legitimate vote of somebody who feels
otherwise. I wonder if anybody in this very
distinguished room would like to volunteer to have their
(incomprehensible) vote. I don't see any hands. Thank
you.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, ma'am.
The next speaker is speaker number 67, Mr. Jerry Stone.
Excuse me -- Ms. Jerry Stone? The Chair apologizes, you
are number 64. The Chair apologizes. The next speaker
is speaker number 64, and I will mess this name up, too.
But it is Ms. Margaret Smetana?

MS. SMETANA: Very good. Thank you. Thank
you.

CHAIRMAN: You have the floor, ma'am,
for a time not to exceed three minutes.
MS. SMETANA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My name is Margaret Smetana, from Moore County. What is at stake today is the right of the people to govern. Guaranteeing the rights of eligible citizens to vote, and preventing non-eligible persons from voting is critical in governing a country or a state. These voters determine the fate of North Carolina and the United States.

The question is whether we, the people, will rule ourselves or have others rule us. Some say that North Carolina has few incidences of voter fraud now, so why enact measures? A prudent people put safeguards in place now to prevent illegal voting and to secure legal elections.

Parents teach their children how to cross the street, not because the children have been hit by a car before, but to prevent them from being hit by a car. Some say that voter -- photo voter ID will disenfranchise the poor and minorities. However, not requiring effective photo voter ID carries an even greater risk of disenfranchising all eligible voters as their votes are diluted or negated by votes of ineligible voters.

For those who do not have acceptable voter ID, photo voter IDs must be available free of charge. Provisions must be made to assist those eligible voters
having difficulty in obtaining photo voter ID. I request that you legislate effective photo voter ID and other measures to ensure legal elections. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, ma'am.

Prior to going on to our next speaker, the Chair would like to announce for those guests who are listening in 544 that there are about 18 chairs that are open in 643, if you would like to come up. The Chair would also announce that Representative John Faircloth is onsite in room 534.

The next speaker is registered as speaker number 67, Jerry Stone. You have -- you have the floor, sir, for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MR. STONE: Thank you. I feel it is a real privilege to be here, and I really thank you for allowing me to participate.

My name is Jerry Stone. I am a resident of Wake County, have been for the last 30 years. My opponents of voter integrity tend to justify their view by denying the existence of voter fraud in North Carolina. I would disagree.

Consider a recent case investigated by the -- by us in the Buncombe County Board of Elections. It featured a voter identified as Monica McCall Avery (phonetic). This person of interest appears to have
voted illegally by employing provisions of the law called "One Stop Voting," or "Same Day Registration," which were really getting pushed the past year.

According to their own documents, the Buncombe County Board of Elections, Monica Avery registered to vote on 10/30/12 at an Early Voting location. During the Board's routine follow up mail to this voter, they were unable to make any further contact. This leads us to believe that a crime occurred. Obviously, we don't know for sure. One voter was disenfranchised because another voter stole the vote. As of February of this year, the voter was coded, "confirmation not returned."

And that is one voter in Buncombe County. That doesn't affect us here. But if only one vote did this sort of fraud, many in this room would just shrug their shoulders. But this vote appears to be a pattern of fraudulent voting because there were 63 other voters in Buncombe County who got away with this same type of voter fraud, and all of their votes counted.

What was the impact? Their County Commissioners' race was decided by 18 votes. Only 18. So there is no doubt that real voter fraud changed the outcome of that election.

I want to just testify to the fact that I have voted for more than 40 years. And at every voting site,
all they asked me was my name. And they looked it up on
the voter board to see if I was registered. And that was
the extent of any identification. They took my word for
the fact that I was who I was. I don't call that very
good voter registration.

A voter ID would not have prevented the fraud.
Real voter ID might have deterred the perpetrator from
attempting the crime we are alleging. While some fraud
deniers downplay such causes of fraud, I ask you how many
votes should be allowed to be fraudulent. Just one is
too many. With this Buncombe County race, all they
needed was 18. It looks like they got it.

I hope you will get it, too. The people of
North Carolina are fed up with election fraud. You only
have one chance to get this right, so you must remove the
fraud-friendly loopholes in our election laws and get us
real voter ID in North Carolina now. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, sir.

The next speaker is speaker number 76, Vicki Boyer. And
the Chair also would like to direct the Sergeant at Arms
that the back row of the members area maybe used by the
guests in those chairs. And ma'am, you have the floor
for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MS. BOYER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
am Vicki Boyer. I am from Orange County. In our
country, everyone is innocent until proven guilty. Voter ID requirements say everyone is guilty until they can prove themselves innocent. We are blessed to live in the first nation state founded upon an idea. According to the Declaration of Independence, the idea of America is that legitimate governments derive their just powers from the consent of the government. That consent is gained through the process of voting. The act of voting is a sacred American right that says government is accountable to the people.

ID requirements say people are accountable to the government. Voter ID says that each of us must have the consent of the government to participate in American's greatest ritual. This requirement changes the very nature of the American Compact. It replaces voters in charge of government and puts government in charge of voters. It allows for a future when one group in power can limit voters to those who will keep that group in power.

As good Americans, I am sure none of you would ever want to see that happen. If you fear voter fraud, increase the severity of punishment for those who vote fraudulently. Fund our local Boards of Elections so that they have the resources they need to fully monitor elections and voting rolls. Fund our prosecutors'
offices so that they have resources to investigate and prosecute anyone violating election laws. Punish those who actually do wrong, not those who don't.

Voter ID diminishes our sacred pact. Voter ID diminishes our democracy. Voter ID is wrong. Don't punish the vast majority of North Carolina citizens by requiring voter ID. Don't invalidate the philosophy this country was founded upon. And remember that as government, you here in this room, we validate you, not the other way around. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, ma'am.

Speaker number 77, Don Yelton. You have the floor, sir. Glad you are here. Time not to exceed three minutes.

MR. YELTON: Don Yelton, Buncombe County. You have heard Buncombe mentioned enough tonight already to realize that when I stood before this Committee the first time I was here, I had submitted to Chairman Lewis and to you that day written examples of voter fraud that I had witnessed in Western North Carolina. It is not only Buncombe, folks.

But in Buncombe County, the reason nothing gets done is we had a Democratic controlled Board of Elections with Mr. Byrd, who was the chair. And Mr. Ron Moore, our DA, would not prosecute when he was given the names of people that voted twice. So you have got it now
documented. You have heard it from not just me.

WLOS had on their TV station the other night this phrase -- I will paraphrase a little bit because at 65, your memory gets a little cloudy, but it is the truth. And I speak the truth, folks. The Democrats don't like me, and there are some Republicans that don't. But that is okay.

WLOS TV said the Democrats fear that the voter regulations will hurt them, as it will disenfranchise some of their special voting blocks. I tell you that that within itself is the reason for photo voter ID, period, end of discussion. It is a no-brainer.

And the bill before you is weak as water. You have got too many ways for them to get their ID. You have got the schools -- school ID, maybe tech ID, college community campus ID, employer ID. None of those verify the residence of that person. And now we are to the touchy issue when your bill goes to the senate. And I ask you to consider this: why does a student who lives in Rhode Island or Florida or anywhere else have the right to be in a tax-subsidized school in North Carolina, living in a tax-subsidized dorm being a tax-deduction for his parents -- even if he lives in Wilmington and he comes to UNC-A, in Asheville, what gives him the right to vote in that town that he is not a resident.
Address the residence issue. That is where you have your problem with many votes. Voting twice -- as I told you, a friend of mine -- and I will be fine on my time, sir. Buncombe County commissioners only give you three minutes, and I am good at it. A friend of mine going to Western Carolina had his daughter pulled aside and said, "You need to register here to vote here because you can vote here and your county." That is going on, on campus, whether you believe it or not. Make this a stronger bill when it goes to the Senate. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, sir.

Speaker number 78, Mr. Hill. Welcome, sir. You have the floor for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MR. HILL: House Rule 589, see the proposed section 163-82.7 capital A, start at line 33 on page 3 of the first edition. An affidavit is mentioned near the end of subsection C. Is it safe to assume that the affidavit in subsection C is the affidavit pursuant to a subsection A or a subsection B declaration?

Subsection C says that the affidavit must be a sworn affidavit. Why is an affirmed affidavit not permissible? Does the objection that is the basis for a subsection A or subsection B declaration have to be an objection to all photographs, or can it be an objection limited to government-mandated photographs only?
The spokesmen for the Voter Integrity Project, so-called, have defined the adjective "anecdotal." They tell you what they are going to tell you -- they tell you about what they are going to tell you, but they never tell you what they are going to tell you. And what they do tell you, they tell in such detail that they can't demonstrate anybody themselves or even prosecutions. Proponents -- by the way, the biggest number I heard from many of them, even alleged, was number five in the first figure, Mr. DeLancy.

Proponents of voter photo ID like to recite the litany of transactions that already require a photo ID. They would leverage existing usurpations of individual sovereignty to justify the new one. But the fact that Governor McCrory must present his likeness to buy Sudafed is an argument against the Sudafed requirement, not in favor of voter ID.

The title of House Bill 589 promises us an act to restore confidence in government. But I cannot have confidence in a government that doesn't have confidence in me. And what House Bill 589 says to me is that the government presumes me to be up to no good and places the burden on me to prove otherwise.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, sir. Speaker number 79, Kerry Alzner. You have the floor,
sir, you are welcome for a time not to exceed three
minutes.

MR. ALZNER: Thank you for hearing me. My
name is Hugo Chavez. How do you know? Really, how do
you know? I am here to vote. Really? Shouldn't I have
to show an ID card? Hey, maybe my name is Bill Ayers. I
am a terrorist and a felon, but I want to vote. How do
you know? Have I shown you an ID card yet? No. So you
have to take my word for it.

There was a report done in 2010 by a lady
named Susan Myrick, not to relate it to Representative
Susan Myrick. In 2010, she did a voter thing on voter --
for voter fraud. It seems that there were a 110 people
-- excuse me, 2,660 people that voted in 2010 that were
over 110 years old. That makes North Carolina the
centenarian capital of the world. We must be doing
something right in this state, living that long.

Now, there is another element called Voter
Integrity Project. They did a little looking at the
rolls, and it seems that 30,000 plus people that were
dead, voted on -- voted in the last election. Without
voter ID, how can anybody tell who they are? I mean, I
just walked up and told you I was Bill Ayers or Hugo
Chavez. For the record, my name really is Kerry Alzner,
and I will show you my ID card anytime you want to ask
for it.

Everybody here should want fair and legal elections. Everybody. I mean, this is part of what our -- it is part of our duty as U.S. citizens to vote. And I have seen people that -- let me see -- they have risked death -- they risk dying to come and vote, yet a small portion of our population actually come up to vote, and then we get a whole bunch of them to show up that are illegals. They are not U.S. citizens and they are not voting for what we want. They are taking away from what we want. They are trying to steal from us.

Those opposed to voter ID are -- want unfair and illegal elections. They want to be able to vote multiple times and want to steal. They want to direct how our country goes, not as myself, as a citizen, but what they want me to do -- not what the rest of my fellow citizens want, but what they want to do. They want to steal the election from us.

Those are -- that are fighting voter ID -- I mean, there has been a talk about it here before. How do they buy cigarettes and alcohol? How do they cash their checks, get their food stamps? They have to show an identification. Voter ID has nothing to do with race, creed, sex, color, or anything else like that. It all has to do with the liberals or those trying to steal the
election from those of us who want a legal election.

As for the transportation problem, I have heard it before. "Oh, I don't have transportation to go get an ID card." Well, it is only a problem if you don't -- it is only a problem if you have a solution; other than that, you are whining. The solution is, Hey, I work for the Tea Party. Call me. I will drive you down there. I will help you get your ID card. If you don't have transportation, give me a holler. You want my number, I will give it to you. I will show it on my ID card, by the way, and I will drive you down there. Thank you for hearing me out.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, sir. Speaker number 80, Charles Cooper. Welcome, sir. You have the floor for a time not to exceed three minutes, sir.

MR. COOPER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is Charlie Cooper and I came here today from Moore County. Many opponents of voter integrity try to justify their views by denying the existing of voter fraud in North Carolina. I respectfully disagree. Consider this recent case investigated by the Buncombe County Board of Elections. It featured a voter named Jamie Lynn Benscroft (phonetic).

This person appears to have voted illegally by
exploiting provisions of the law called "One Stop Voting," or "Same Day Registration." According to their own documents, the Buncombe County Board of Elections, Jamie Benscroft registered to vote on November the 12th, 2011 at Early Voting location. Excuse me. During the Board's routine followup mail to this voter, they were unable to make further contact. This leads me to believe that a crime occurred.

One voter was disenfranchised because another voter stole a vote. As of February of this year, this voter was coded by the Board there, "confirmation not returned."

If only one voter did this sort of fraud, some in this room would just shrug their shoulders. But this vote appears in a pattern of fraudulent voting because there were 63 other voters in Buncombe County who got away with this same type of voter fraud. And all of their votes counted.

What was the impact? The County Commission race was decided by 18 votes. 18. So there is no doubt that real voter fraud changed the outcome of that election.

Real voter ID might have prevented this. While some fraud deniers downplay cases of fraud, I ask you how many votes should be allowed to be stolen. Just
one too many is just one too many, but this Buncombe County race needed only 18. And it looks like they got 18.

You only have one chance to get this right, ladies and gentlemen, so you must remove the fraud friendly loopholes in our election laws and get a real voter ID in North Carolina with photo. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, sir.

Speaker number 81, Brenda Formo. Welcome, ma'am. You have the floor for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MS. FORMO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am Brenda T. Formo and I live in Guilford County. In Guilford County, during the early voting in 2012, I was at a polling place passing out voting information. A woman with a group of eight elderly people approached and I offered them my voters guides. The woman said, "No, they won't need your voter's guides. They don't speak English. They are Russian." Not knowing that we had Russian voters, I went inside to talk with the chief judge.

And she said that, no, it wasn't English, as I thought, but that there was nothing wrong if the woman was there to help the people vote, as long as she was not their boss. Fine. I have -- I didn't see her ask that question or even bother to inquire. It was just accepted.
that it was okay that they cast a vote. I have no
confidence that this was checked. And the question of
their legality of their voting -- this could have been
avoided with a voter photo ID.

In another case, also in Guilford County,
during early voting and early registration, a young man
was overheard saying he only had a post office box
because he lived on campus. His friend said, "Don't
worry. Just use my address and everything will be okay."

The ballot box is the most treasured tool of
democracy. The ballot box requires protection and
integrity in our electoral process. North Carolina is
one of the states that does not require any form of
identification when casting a ballot, as we all know.
The right to vote is one of the most important rights
bestowed on a United States citizen. And voter fraud
does exist, even in North Carolina.

The State of North Carolina has a
responsibility to ensure that voters of our state have --
that they are qualified voters, and that they are able to
cast their votes, and that citizens' votes will not be
diminished that are -- by votes that are cast illegally.
I strongly urge all legislators and Governor McCrory to
support and promote any and all legislation to require
voters of North Carolina to provide state photo
identification and proof of eligibility -- and that is
residence -- before being allowed to cast a vote in any
election. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you.

Speaker number 82, Mariann Benway -- welcome, ma'am. You
have the floor for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MS. BENWAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My
name is Mariann Benway. The North Carolina Black
Legislative caucus stands firmly against the voter ID
bill, arguing it disenfranchises poor and minority voters
who are more likely to lack photo ID. Poor and minority
voters do not lack photo ID because they cannot apply for
government assistance without a photo ID.

In California and Illinois, just to name a
couple of so-called Blue States, in order to apply for
welfare, food stamps or public housing, you need a valid
photo ID to prove your identity to get this government
assistance. The exact government programs designed to
help the poor require photo IDs.

The information being pushed by the NAACP
claims this is a poll tax. It is not. Voter ID is
consistent with the 24th Amendment, section one, which is
to ensure that the right of citizens of the United States
to vote in any primary or other election for president or
vice president shall not be denied or abridged by the
United States or any state by reason of failure to pay any poll tax or other tax. Section two of this Amendment says, "Legislation is allowed which will enforce this provision."

The North Carolina Legislature has worked conscientiously to avoid disenfranchising citizens or engaging in voter suppression. Alternative ID cards to vote are a driver's license, military IDs, Department of Motor vehicle ID cards, and passports. For those unable to purchase these cards, they will be provided at no cost to eligible voters.

For the elderly who may not have state issued birth certificates, other options have been provided; given this, voter ID cards are anything but a poll tax. There is no malicious purpose for asking a person to show an ID and prove their identity prior to voting. States like Georgia have enacted programs for free identification cards. Turnout among black and Hispanic voters increased from 2006 to 2010, dramatically outpacing population growth for these groups over the same period.

As far as student IDs being a form of ID to vote, this is not a good idea. Getting a fake student ID is much too easy. It was easy way back in the '60s, well, before computers, when I had one in order to get
into bars when I was under age. The only thing voter ID suppresses is voter fraud. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: The chair thanks you, ma'am.

Speaker number 83, Larry Henson. Welcome, sir. You have the floor for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MR. HENSON: Thank you. My name is Larry Henson, and I am from Wake Forest. I am here to ask for your support for voter ID. In the 2004, 2008, and 2012 elections, I served as a poll observer. I have seen fraud and I have seen very suspicious activity that implied voter fraud.

One example, I watched a lady come in to vote three times. On the second time, I pointed her out to the chief judge. The third time, I again pointed her out to the chief judge. This time the judge looked into it, and saw that the lady was trying to vote for a man. When questioned, she replied, "You are trying -- you are trying to deny my neighbor's right to vote." She was voting for someone else.

So I ask for your support for voter ID, to help keep this lady and others from committing fraud. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: The chair thanks you, sir.

Speaker number 84 is Dennis O'Donnell. Welcome, sir. You have the floor for a time not to exceed three
DR. O'DONNELL: Thank you for your time. My name is Dennis O'Donnell. I am from Wake County. I come before you just as a citizen who is discouraged with our voting system. I served as a poll observer in the 2008 election and realized that -- from that experience, that I was being disenfranchised. I only was there part of the day, but at -- on election day, at 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon, all of the observers from both sides, the Democrats and Republicans, got to look at the voter precinct list and see who hadn't shown up.

I noticed that four Democratic party observers copied down several hundred names in a matter of 15 minutes, got on their cell phones and called somewhere. In approximately 30 minutes later, people started showing up with pieces of paper in their hand and either written on their hand or in their hand, of who they were. And, you know, I brought this to the attention of the chief judge, who basically said, "If they say that is who they are, that is who they are, and there is no way to check it."

No -- we have no way of knowing what went on, but it certainly left me with the idea that my vote didn't count, because we did not verify who really is voting, who is not voting. It is critical that we have
some way of making sure that everybody -- we want everybody to vote, but we only want them to vote once. And when we register them, we want to make sure that people don't register twice. That is part of the scheme, that people register -- people without their middle name, with their middle name. And there is no checking going on, you know.

So -- and as one other issue, I spent this morning at the DMV renewing my driver's license. And I had to bring my passport. They wouldn't count my current driver's license as ID. They required either a passport or a registered copy of my birth certificate to renew a driver's license. Again -- I mean, in their paperwork that you get online, if you could look online, you will see what they required. Yet to vote, we don't require any of that. I thank you for your time.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, sir. Speaker number 85. And the chair will apologize, Bob, if you would say your name, sir. And the Chair does apologize. We are glad you are here. You have the floor for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MR. BADERTSCHER: Thank you. Good afternoon. My name is Bob Badertscher. I am from Southport, North Carolina. And I drove up here today to offer a confession. I have attempted voter fraud. Here is how
it went down.

On the first day of early voting, I went to the Southport Senior Center to vote. I waited in line for 40 minutes. As I approached the registration table, before the attendant looked up from completing the last registration, I announced myself with a name and address of my next door neighbor, who I knew was out of the country and not likely to vote for some time.

When the attendant looked up, we both burst out laughing. See, my -- the attendant was a good friend who knows both me and my neighbor. My attempted voter fraud was all in good fun, but when this scenario is played out in other voting locations across the state, it is not a joke.

Well, after I exercised my privilege to vote, I noted that the Senior Center was also offering flu shots that day. I stopped in a room next door and asked for a flu shot. I was instructed to sit down and produce my photo ID driver's license, and to give up my most critical piece of information, and yours too, Social Security number. I could not have a flu shot without complying with that request.

Now, I haven't heard any of my anti-voting ID activist friends protesting the flu shot ID requirements. Could that be because dead people don't get flu shots or
because live people don't try to get more than one flu shot?

It seems ludicrous to me that we require positive ID for so many things in our lives, yet we don't require positive ID to participate in the most fundamental privilege, which drives our Democratic Republic. You may have noticed I am a Yankee by birth, but I am a Tarheel by choice. In other states where I voted, you had to sign a book each time that you voted. Your signature was then compared with the signature that you provided when you first registered to vote. It seems like a reasonable requirement to me. The photo ID would be even better.

Well, while my attempted voter fraud was only a joke and no laws were broken, it proved to me how easy it would be to carry out real voter fraud. It is your job to make laws to protect voters from identity theft and see that only those eligible get to vote. Please, this time, see that the integrity of North Carolina's voting process is strengthened and maintained. As your constituents, we expect and deserve nothing less. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, sir. Speaker number 86, Charlotte Sandri. Welcome. You have the floor, ma'am, for a time not to exceed three minutes.
MS. SANDRI: Thank you for this opportunity to speak. My name is Charlotte Sandri, and I live here, in Raleigh, in Wake County.

Many opponents of voter integrity tend to justify their fears by denying the existence of voter fraud in North Carolina. I respectfully disagree. Consider a recent case -- consider a recent case. It featured a voter named Oom Kaone Shin (phonetic). This person affirmed that he was not a citizen of the United States to the North Carolina Court System after voting in an election.

According to their own documents, the Wake County Clerk of Court received evidence that -- from Oom Shin that disqualified him from jury duty on the basis of not being a citizen. The actual day of the jury disqualification was November 14th, 2011. But a vote was recorded in that person's name on November 2nd, 2004. The vote occurred before the jury disqualification.

Evidence was turned over to the Board of Elections, but they didn't seem to care. Not only did they deny all challenges by using hearsay evidence, the North Carolina Administrative Office of the courts quickly moved to deny access to similar jury data from other counties. The State Board of Elections appeared to be more interested in derailing the investigation than
they were about the fact that a non-U.S. citizen voted in our elections. This is just one example of voter fraud in North Carolina. We have heard many today.

While some groups oppose any credible election reform by attacking the messenger, I believe the facts should stand for themselves. I strongly urge legislators, you have only one chance to get this right. Please remove the fraud friendly loopholes and give North Carolina a real voter ID law. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, ma'am.

Speaker number 87 has a beautiful signature and the Chair apologizes that it can't read it. Would you please introduce yourself, ma'am, and then you will have three minutes to speak.

MS. SCHUBERT: Thank you. Thank you for this opportunity. My name is Molly Schubert, and I am from Wake County.

I would like to share with you a recent case that was investigated as you heard also by several others, from Buncombe County Board of Elections there, with a voter named Natasha Ann Harvey (phonetic). It appears that this person voted illegally by exploiting the provision of the law that is called "One Stop Voting," or "Same Day Registration."

According to their own documents, the Buncombe
County Board of Elections, Natasha Harvey registered to vote on 10/24/2012, approximately two weeks before November 6th, at an early voting location. During the Board's routine followup mail to this voter, they were unable to make any kind of contact, which led us to believe that a crime may have occurred.

One voter was disenfranchised because another voter possibly stole a vote. As of February of this year, 2013, the voter was coded, as you heard in other cases today, quote, "confirmation not returned."

This appears to be a pattern of fraudulent voting because there was 63 other voters in Buncombe County who got away with this same type of voter fraud. And you have heard of some of those instances already. But all those votes counted. And the impact? The County Commission race was decided, as you have heard before, by 18 votes. So each vote does make a difference.

I have a question for everyone in this room. Has anyone ever broken into your home, ever? A few of you, perhaps. Most of you, the answer is probably "no." Another question: how many of you lock your doors before you leave your home? Since no one has broken into your home, why do you lock your doors? Shouldn't you just leave them unlocked and wait to see if anything bad happens? We never had anyone break into our home, but we
do lock our doors.

Has anyone ever voted in my place before, using my name and address? No, but should I wait until someone does vote in my place before taking any precautions? I believe it is my duty and my responsibility as a citizen to protect my home as well as my right to vote by taking preventative measures to ensure that my vote is not compromised in any way and at any time. I am honored to prove my citizenship and proud to display a sense of civic responsibility by showing a photo ID when I vote. Aren't you?

Thank you, very much.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, ma'am. Speaker number 88, Bill Bryson. You have the floor, sir, for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MR. BRYSON: Ladies and gentlemen, my name is Bill Bryson. I live in Wake County, and am a volunteer for the Wake County Republican Party. My responsibility as a volunteer is to download the current voter list from the State Board of Elections.

As of Saturday, April 6th, 2013, there were 61,858 incomplete voters in Wake County. An incomplete voter is one who does not reside at the resident address in the voter list, as determined by the U.S. Postal Service when mail is returned undeliverable. Of the
61,858 incomplete voters, 12.2 percent voted in the 2012 general election. Of those 6,940 incomplete voters, only 1.7 percent cast a provisional ballot, even though an incomplete voter should vote provisional. The point here is that with the voter ID -- a positive system of identification, not a subjective system -- that person with an incomplete status would have voted provisional, so that his address could be verified and updated if it is valid.

The current North Carolina voter registration verification system is broken. It is not aggressively kept up to date, which allows for abuses. Of the 714,732 voters registered in Wake County, only 81 percent -- 585,628 -- are considered complete or active. The votes of the remaining 19 percent can be easily voted by using another person's name, typically at a One Stop site, where the voter is unknown. 44 percent of the incomplete votes cast in 2012 were cast at One Stop sites.

The opportunity for fraudulent votes is rising when newly registered voters are considered active without proper identification. There are currently 4,598 of these newly active voters -- in other words, who registered at a One Stop or registered at the office -- for which verification is pending. Of these, 4,598 voters -- these people who voted in 2012 -- who voted at
One Stop and have failed successful delivery of the first
or second mailing [sic].

Now, this number is increasing each time I
download the database. A month ago, it was only around
2,000. Now it is 4,550 -- 98. The reason is, is that
the validation process, which was not performed at the
poll, at the -- is performed after the fact. And this is
what causes the number to go up. We need a positive
voter identification system which is -- verifies the
voter at the time of the vote. Many people can
registered, but that person needs to be validated at the
time he votes or she votes. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, sir.
Speaker number 89, Jessie [sic] Brantley. Welcome. You
have the floor for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MS. BRANTLEY: Good afternoon. My name is
Bessie Brantley, and I live in Wake County. And through
this whole course we have been hearing a lot about
Buncombe County. And I do have another one. It is Sarah
Elizabeth McGee (phonetic). Again, she registered to
vote on November the 2nd, and she voted. And apparently
her voter confirmation was never returned. So I don't
need to go to the same thing over again. You are very
familiar with the story. Basically, she stole somebody's
vote because by her voting somebody else's real vote did
And you all -- you are all clear about that. I do want to speak from personal experience. I have been a volunteer at the elections for several years now. And I have gotten to know a lot of people that volunteer. And I want to speak about a couple of cases that I am very familiar with. And in this last election, a friend of mine, who went into a precinct to be a poll observer, that night before, we all had received information about the statute; about who is eligible to vote, the criteria of what makes a person eligible to vote.

That day, I took that information with me. And my friend went to this spot early voting polling place. And he brought the statute, which he presented to the judge there. The judge took it and she said that she would have to call the main office. Well, after a little while, she came back and she told my friend that he needed to leave. She had spoken to Gary Sims (phonetic). And after discussion with him, my friend had to leave. He was a poll observer. He was there to do what he had come in to do and that is to observe.

There are a lot of things that have happened over the past few years. And we are all aware of it. I know many people are trying to push it off as, oh, discrimination. Well, first of all, I am Spanish. My
family and I came from South America in 1964. My parents sold everything they had. They got the legal papers to come to this country. We came with just our clothes and we went to Illinois. In 1975 we became naturalized citizens.

We did everything legally. It took hard work. When I am talking about this election, the reason why we need voter ID is, as a naturalized citizen, as a citizen of this country, it is appalling to me how easy it is to cheat the system. The system tries to be very gracious with everyone. Yes, everybody has the right to vote; I agree, everybody has the right to vote.

But as everyone else has mentioned before, you need IDs -- picture IDs to do so many things that are part of our regular lives. I believe that we need to maintain the integrity of the elections by requiring everyone to have a voter ID. And if they need help to get somewhere, there are many of us that would be glad to. I would be willing to pay that $10 to help someone get a voter ID. I am sure that there are many other people who would be willing to do the same.

I really would appreciate it if you would vote -- and again, this bill is watered down, but we do need a real voter ID in this -- in North Carolina. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: The chair thanks you, ma'am.
Speaker number 90, Bill Clark. Is that correct, sir?

MR. CLARK: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN: Welcome. You have the floor for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MR. CLARK: Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. One of the most precious rights we have as citizens is the right to vote. And the idea of one vote for one qualified citizen is critical for maintaining the integrity of our election process. There is no debate; voter fraud exists. YouTube videos document it, poll observers witness it.

Those who oppose this bill will claim there is no significant concrete evidence for voter fraud. That is becoming more and more untrue every day, thanks to the hard work of many organizations. Truth be known, if we had real strong voter ID requirements, we would actually be able to prove it. Yet, without some form of voter ID and verification, we cannot have any confidence that our citizens have cast their one and only vote.

Still, in the minds of those who oppose this bill, the needs of one person without proper ID seem to outweigh the need for the vast majority of our citizens to have a voting process of the highest integrity. We should all be held equal under the law.

Should those who cannot or are unable to
obtain a valid ID have any greater right than citizens
whose votes are nullified by fraud? Are we to believe
our government is incapable of establishing a system to
provide identification to those people who do not have
other valid means of identification? And, finally, we
have private organizations with a long history of helping
our fellow citizens and the less unfortunate [sic] among
us. Are we to believe that these people could not act,
then, to help those folks who do not have IDs to get it
should a government system of alternate IDs not be able
to succeed.

Voter fraud exists and must end if decisions
made by the people at the ballot box are to go
unchallenged in the wait for those among us desiring
justice [sic]. Pass this bill. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, sir.

Number 91, Gladys Suessle.

MS. SUESSLE: Excellent.

CHAIRMAN: Welcome, ma'am. You have the
floor for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MS. SUESSLE: Thank you. Thank you for
this opportunity to speak before you. My name is Gladys
Suessle. And I am from Beaufort, in Carteret County. As
a transplant from New York, I was very excited to think
that North Carolina would be more honest and have a more
honest election process than New York. But sadly, I was mistaken and extremely heartbroken, as we have decided this is where we are retiring and spending the rest of our lives.

We, as legal citizens of the United States, have the precious privilege of voting. Someone who is here illegally should not be allowed to vote. After all, they are here illegally. Nor should dead people be allowed to vote. Nor should those who may not even know their name, what day of the week it is, the mentally disabled.

Just as a personal account: my husband and I were outside the voting poll on several days during early election and on election day. And not one, but two 14 passenger vans pulled up and they went over the little thing that rang the bell. And a poll voter came out, asked how many were in the van, and then proceeded to go in and come out and bring 15 ballots.

So the driver voted for all of these people that were sitting there that had no idea what they were doing. This, to me, is outrageous. How can you do that? Our elections should be free from corruption. I urge you, please do not allow this law to be watered down as it is. We need a very stringent photo ID with no employer ID, no student ID. We must have voter
As I listened to somebody talk about the poll tax, being from New York, we have not really heard about this. But to me, that precludes that our black Americans are not capable of getting a photo voter ID. And as an American, that insults me tremendously. Because I believe we are all intelligent enough to be able to do that. And I am sure that those with financial hardships can be accommodated.

While some fraud deniers downplay such cases of fraud as I mentioned, I ask you how many votes should be allowed to be stolen? Just one in Carteret County is too many. The people of North Carolina, I think, are fed up with election fraud -- the people I have spoken to. You have only one chance to get this right, so please, please, do the right thing and make this a good voter ID reform. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, ma'am. Speaker number 92, Martha Brown. Ms. Brown, welcome. You have the floor for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MS. BROWN: My name is Martha Murdock Brown. I live in High Point, North Carolina. First, my husband and I have been poll observers for over ten years in Guilford County, and we have been involved in the
voting process for many, many years. And first, I feel that the requirement of a photo ID for voting is not a good policy. Your reasoning for wanting this ID is that there is potential or there is voter fraud. There is no evidence of voter fraud in North Carolina, or possibly could be. Be quiet, I am talking. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: If you will, ma'am -- if you will ---

MS. BROWN: Your suggested legislation of voter fraud is not the true reasoning for implementing this law. You also want to cut back early voting. Also, all of the above is voter suppression against the elderly, students who live and go to college here in North Carolina, and others who show a strong interest in voting.

Since Republicans have made gains in both chambers, all legislation that has come forth has leaned toward trying to suppress one's right to vote and slow down the voting process on election day. The legislation you want to put forth would do just that. All the change of voting laws, cutting back early voting and denying students the right to vote in your state are issues -- were not an issue until a person of color became president of the United States.

Be quiet, I am still talking. I marched and
fought for civil and voting rights in the early 1960s.

CHAIRMAN: Ma'am, if you will, the Chair apologizes to you. I think that there are those in the crowd who, perhaps, are trying to lend support and to perhaps dissuade what you are saying. The Chair announced prior to the start of this that we were not going to engage in that. And so the Chair would ask that those in the room please show respect and decorum for the speaker who has the floor.

With that, the Chair will direct the Sergeant at Arms to add two minutes to this time. And the Chair does apologize, ma'am. You have the floor.

MS. BROWN: Thank you. I was -- I marched and fought for civil and voting rights in the early '60s. I was spit on and called names that I cannot repeat and also arrested. Fighting for these rights -- and to think that now, in 2013, we have to again fight to have the privilege of voting. This legislature will take us back 50 years, and a lot of people died for these rights.

You say that the majority of people are behind implementation of voter ID. I can say the majority in the early 60s was also -- did not want integration. And I want to thank you for your time.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, ma'am.
Speaker number 93, Lyn Baker. You have the floor, ma'am, for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MS. BAKER: My name is Lyn Baker, and I am from Beaufort and Carteret County. And I am here today because I can be here. I am happy that I am able to tell you how I feel about the voter ID bill. I have been called a bigot and a racist because I support this bill. But I have lived long enough to know that I can stand up for what I believe in because this is America.

And I come from a family that is diverse. I have attended churches that are diverse, I have worked in more places that are diverse. And being a bigot and a racist is not part of my makeup. I believe that if you are honest and want to present yourself as being who you are, there is nothing harmful about a photo ID. I just -- I am 75 years old. I will be able to find -- if I needed to have an ID, I would be able to find where it was and how to get it. And if I couldn't get myself there, I could find somebody who would get me there.

I just think that this is an excuse for not wanting to have one vote for one person. Thank you for your listening.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, ma'am. Speaker number 94 is Allison Riggs. Ma'am, we are glad you are here. You have the floor for a time not to
exceed three minutes.

MS. RIGGS: Thank you, sir. My name is Allison Riggs. I have spoken before this body before, but I come today to oppose House Bill 589. This is not a compromise or moderate bill. After the phase-in, North Carolina's voter ID requirement would be among the most very strict in the nation. In many ways, the law is even more restrictive than those in Georgia and Indiana.

In Indiana indigent voters aren't forced to spend the significant amounts of time and money necessary to track down the birth certificates from out of state in order to get a photo ID. An indigent voter may go to the circuit court clerk after the election and sign an affidavit that he was the person who voted on election day and that he is unable to obtain proof of ID without paying fees. The indigent voter's vote is then counted.

Requiring second trips of voters is burdensome enough, but at least in Indiana, there is some mechanism whereby people like Rocky Reese, who testified at the last public hearing, don't have their right to vote predicated upon their ability to track down an out of state birth certificate. But in North Carolina, the proposed bill contains no such mechanism. House Bill 589 is not a compromise or moderate bill.

In Georgia, to get a free ID, there is more
flexibility in the kinds of non photo identity documents you can show in order to get the free ID. Under House Bill 589, even with the fee waived to get the free ID, there are very few types of identity documents that the DMV accepts. And that would make it substantially harder to get a free ID in North Carolina than it is to get a free ID in Georgia. House Bill 589 is not a compromise or moderate bill.

It is also worth noting that a federal judge joined enforcement of Georgia's first version of its voter ID law -- the 2005 version -- because in that version, in order to get a free ID, a voter had to sign an affidavit swearing he was indigent and could not pay the fee for the ID card. The judge found merit to plaintiffs' undue burden and poll tax claims because voters would be understandably reluctant to swear under penalty of perjury that they were indigent, giving the subjectivity of that term. And voters could be too embarrassed about their inability to pay to request and complete such an affidavit.

The Georgia legislature had to go back and correct that, changing it so that anyone who wanted a free ID could get one. And all they had to swear to was that they didn't have another kind of ID. House Bill 589's financial hardship affidavit requirement for a free
ID creates the same legal problems as identified in Georgia's initial voter ID law. Issuing free IDs only through the DMV licensing offices is another fatal flaw in this bill. The DMV offices in many counties are only open once or twice a week, during work hours. If voters have to choose between earning a wage and obtaining documentation to vote, that is neither legal nor constitutional.

House Bill 589 is bad policy. House Bill 589 violates constitutional guarantees and voting rights laws. It doesn't make elections more secure, but it makes voting, a fundamental right, a lot harder for those of your constituents who are at least able to bear the added burdens. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, ma'am.

Speaker number 95, Bill Gilkeson. Welcome, sir. You have the floor for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MR. GILKESON: Thank you Mr. Chair and members of the Committee. Before I retired, I used to work here, but I also worked on election day as a precinct official. I miss that sometimes, but if the bill as proposed -- being proposed now go through, I wouldn't want to work as a precinct official on election day. I believe these changes will make doing the job the voters there deserve much harder, maybe impossible.
To get the full picture, you have to look at the changes altogether, not just one by one. For example, two year ago, you drew redistricting plans that split an unprecedented number of precincts. That means that on election day, the precinct officials have more different kinds of ballots in the same precinct, and they have to make sure the right ballot gets to the right voter.

In the 2012 presidential election, the stress of that was relieved by early voting. Early voting sites are better set up to handle split precincts. And because so many people voted in 2012, the polling places were not mobbed on election day. But now you are proposing to cut a week out of early voting. The election supervisor of Leon County, Florida, told you last week that a similar cut back in Florida resulted in a nightmare on election day.

One bill I saw here recently evenly proposed restricting early voting to the county Board of Elections office, no more satellite sights. If these things happen, expect longer lines on election day.

On top of the split precincts and the long lines if you curtail early voting, you are burdening precinct official with administering this photo ID bill. First they have to determine if each voter has proper
form of ID, which is not always simple or bright line. And if there is a proper form of ID, they may have to determine if the photo reasonably resembles the voter.

On page 3 of House Bill 589, it says that if one precinct official raises the issue, the three precinct judges have to stop what they are doing, let the lines back up, and have a mini trial right then and there in the polling place. On paper, it looks like a fair trial. But this is not a suitable environment for such a proceeding.

Most precinct officials don't like to be at odds with each other or with the voters. They have been trained to avoid time consuming, unseemly controversies by using provisional ballots. The message has been, "smile, don't argue, let the voter vote provisionally, and give them an 'I voted' sticker. Let the Board of Elections sort things out before canvas day."

But under this bill, the voter who votes a provisional ballot because of lack of an ID has to make a second trip this time, to the Board of Elections office for the vote to count. Many people don't have the transportation to get there and probably will be disenfranchised. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, sir. Speaker number 96, Frank Empie. You have the floor, sir,
for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MR. EMPIE: Thank you. I am Frank Empie. I am from Raleigh. Many opponents of voter integrity tend to justify their views by denying the existence of voter fraud in North Carolina. I disagree with that. Consider this recent case investigated by the Voter Integrity Project of North Carolina. It featured a voter named Jose Lee Gomez.

Now, this person of interest proved that he was a non-U.S. citizen to the North Carolina court system after he voted in an election. According to their own documents, the Wake County Clerk of Courts received evidence from Jose Gomez that disqualified the voter from jury duty on the basis of not being a citizen.

Now, the actual date into this qualification was December 30\(^{th}\) in '09. But a vote was recorded in this name on November 2\(^{nd}\), '04. I repeat: the vote occurred before the jury disqualification. So it was obviously voter fraud.

The evidence was turned over to the Board of Elections, but they didn't seem to care. Not only did they deny all of the changes by using hearsay evidence, but the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts quickly moved to deny access to similar jury data from other counties. State Board of Elections appeared
to be more interested in derailing the investigation than they were about the fact that a non-citizen was voting in our election.

That is just one example of voter fraud in North Carolina, but there are several more. How many will it take for you to concede the point election fraud is a serious problem in North Carolina? Some groups oppose any credible election reform by attacking the messenger. I believe the facts should stand for themselves.

Our findings are just the tip of an iceberg, because voter fraud is a very real problem, and the people of North Carolina are sick of election fraud. You have got one chance to get it right, so keep that in mind. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, sir. Speaker number 97, Alex Brown. Glad you are here, sir. You have the floor for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MR. BROWN: Thank you. Hello, everybody. My name is Alex Brown. And I have come here today from Wake County.

Many opponents of voter integrity tend to justify their views by denying the existence of voter fraud in North Carolina. We respectfully disagree.
Consider this recent case investigated for us by the Buncombe County Board of Elections. It featured a voter named William Tyler Hughes (phonetic). This person of interest appears to have voted illegally by exploiting provisions of the law called "One Stop Voting," or "Same Day Registration."

According to their own documents, the Buncombe County Board of Elections, William Hughes registered to vote on 10/31/2012 at an early voting location. During the Board's routine followup mail to this voter, they were unable to make any further contact. This leads us to believe that a crime has occurred.

One voter was disenfranchised because another voter stole a vote. As of February of this year, a voter was coded "confirmation pending." If only one vote get decertified, many in this room would just shrug their shoulders. But this vote appears in patterns of fraudulent voting, because there were 63 other voters in Buncombe County who got away with this same type of voter fraud, and every single vote counted.

But what was the impact? The county commissioners race was decided by 18 votes. Every vote counts. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, sir. Speaker 99, Paul Jansen. Glad you are here, sir. You
I have the floor for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MR. JANSEN: My name is Paul Jansen. I am from Wake County, and I thank you for the time to speak before you today. I have -- I have to show voter ID to get into the Board of Elections, to write a check, or receive a welfare check. Why not to vote? The facts exist today that you have heard from many others.

I have read where over 107 absentee ballots were returned to the Board of Elections as non-deliverable. Their votes counted. These votes are all highly suspect. Some counties have more registered votes than they have registered voters. And that brings a lot of votes into question.

There are many loopholes that influence our elections and take rights away from law abiding citizens. The right to have a fair election and representative government is very far from where we exist today. You are at a place in history to give the people what they want, and that is integrity. Stop the oppression of honest voters' rights. The people of North Carolina are fed up with election fraud that has been happening. We must remove the fraud.

Tightening loopholes in our election laws and passing real photo ID in North Carolina is one way to do it. And I thank you for your time today.
CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, sir.

Speaker number 100, Sue Butcher, the Chair apologizes for mispronouncing your name. You have the floor for a time not to exceed three minutes, ma'am. Welcome.

MS. BUTCHER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you everyone that is still listening to all this long information about voter fraud. And I guess what I am picking up possibly that we are not proving things that are really happening out there.

As a poll observer this last year -- I also am a transplant from another state, of Michigan, and I am proudly now happy to be a voter here in North Carolina. I was quite surprised that my voter ID that I was so proud to have, with a North Carolina address on it, was not even required when I walked up to the voting registration. I just had to match my name with my address. I do believe it is happening.

And as a poll observer, it was quite surprising to see some people actually stand right next to each other and not even pick up a pencil to do their voting. They were able to have someone else vote for them. The person just stood there. And I went over to the judge and ask them how this person could actually get to that point without being responsible to acknowledging the paper in front of them and making a pencil mark on
1 it. They explained to me that everyone had a right to
2 vote, and that was it.
3
4 I was reading on the bill -- I may be
5 interpreting it incorrectly -- but is it also saying that
6 we now, as a poll observer, would be able to go in and
7 ask the judge could we ask this person whether they had
8 the voter registration and how they got to that point?
9 Because as a poll observer, you are sitting there. And
10 you might just as well have duct tape on your mouth,
11 because you are really prevented from being -- you are
12 just an observer. And I guess I do respect that ability
13 to do that.
14
15 The curbside voting is a whole 'nother -- I
16 hadn't been around to see something like that, which I am
17 sure every state, I guess, is having now. But there is a
18 lot of loopholes when you have a whole car full of people
19 come up and you don't even have enough people -- we
20 don't -- to go out and make sure and verify that one at a
21 time is being voted on that.
22
23 I believe from what we have heard also today
24 that one -- other people are suggesting other state laws
25 about voter ID. I would like us to stand strong and tall
26 here, North Carolina. We do not need to look at other
27 states; that is what is unique about America. And we are
28 citizens and have a right to have a voter ID to prevent
all the fraud that is going on. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, ma'am.

Speaker number 101, William T. Crist. Welcome, sir. You have the floor for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MR. CRIST: Thank you. My name is William Crist. I am from Wake County. This past election I worked as a early voting poll watcher and other functions. I saw one gentleman along with his wife, who was very identifiable because he wore a green and yellow striped shirt, and he was the only voter I saw playing on an IPad while in line.

They went through the line twice within a very short time obviously using different voter names and addresses because they voted twice. Here was voter fraud, and a very fine example. I believe we need voter ID because we do have voter fraud running rampant at our polling places. People that are crying voter ID would stop the poor and elderly from voting know this is a lie. These same voters must use an ID for their doctors' visits or at the pharmacy to get their prescriptions filled, or at their banks to cash a check. Then why not an ID for the most important right they have, voting?

It has been proven in states that have voter ID that a greater percentage of these people exercise their right to vote. I feel this is because they know
their votes really count and are not being stolen. I
request we make this a state that protect voter rights by
giving us photo voter ID. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, sir.

Speaker number 102, Lee Mortimer. Welcome, sir. You
have the floor for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MR. MORTIMER: Thank you. My name is Lee
Mortimer. I live in Durham. I served on the Legislative
Study Commission for Election Law Review in 1996. I am
here today to speak against the proposed changes in
voting law, and particularly specific parts of it.

Requiring voters to produce a
government-issued photo ID in order to vote is a remedy
in search of a problem. There is very little, if any,
evidence that fraudulent voting has been an actual
problem in our elections. If fraudulent voting were a
problem, then surely some losing candidates would have
challenged their election losses in the courts. To my
knowledge, there has never been a losing candidate to
request a recount of his or her election laws on the
grounds of fraudulent voting.

When Republicans were in the minority, their
voting ID proposal would have accepted a utility bill,
bank statement, payroll stub or similar identification
that could be checked against the name and address on the
voter registration list. The current proposal allows
such documents, but only for absentee voting. Why is a
utility bill, bank statement or payroll stub acceptable
for absentee voters but not for someone who votes in
person?

Same day registration during early voting has
been a great convenience for voters who need to register
or need to change their registration information. Why
are you taking this away? There could be no explanation
except that you want to make it harder for people to
vote. What possible reason could there be for
eliminating straight ticket voting? It would not cut
costs, it would not speed voting. If anything, it would
slow the voting process.

The only thing eliminating straight ticket
voting would do is reduce the number of Democrat votes
compared to the number of Republican votes. In 2012
election, 56 percent of Democrats voted a straight
ticket; 43 percent of Republicans voted the straight
ticket. The figures tell the story.

The most egregious example of voter fraud was
the 2011 gerrymandered redistricting plan that enabled
Republican candidates to win 13 percent more legislative
seats and 20 percent more congressional seats in 2012
than Republican received votes across the state of North
Carolina. The way to win elections is to put forth good ideas and good candidates, not to corrupt the election rules and prevent your opponents voters from casting their ballot. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, sir.

Speaker number 103, Ven Carver. Welcome, sir. You have the floor for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MR. CARVER: Thank you, very much, Mr. Chairman. My name is Ven Carver, and I do have an ID that will establish that fact. I live in Raleigh. And I am here to speak in opposition to House Bill 589, that is the voter ID bill, and all the other proposals to invoke restrictions on voting.

A specific area I would like to address is absentee ballots. Now, under House Bill 589, according to the information I have, to obtain an absentee ballot, the voter simply has to send a form in to the Board of Elections. Does he have to include an ID? Well, no, not exactly. He can send in his driver's license number. If he doesn't have a driver's license, he can send in his Social Security number. If he doesn't want to send in his Social Security number, he has -- he also has the option of including a copy of a light bill or payroll stub or various government documents.

So if the real intent of this bill is to crack
down on voter fraud, why are there not more restrictions
on absentee ballots? That is the question I would like
to pose. And I submit that the reason is that
Republicans prefer to use absentee ballots as their means
of early voting. And this bill was, after all, drawn up
by Republicans. Thank you, very much.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, sir.

Speaker number 104, Susie Farrell. We welcome, ma'am.

You have the floor for a time not to exceed three
minutes.

MS. FERRELL: Thank you. My name is Susie
Farrell. I live in Wake County. For the record, I just
wanted to point out that Dave Wrenn (phonetic) is another
example of the voter fraud in Buncombe County with the
election for the county commissioner that won by 18
votes. I also wanted to point out that I woke up in the
year 2000 and got involved in politics. I started paying
attention and I started doing volunteer work with voter
registration, working the polls, you know, doing a lot of
this stuff. And I really kind of wondered, "Where have I
been," you know, because I had no idea about what was
happening. And I just started learning a lot.

But with reference to the Voter ID Bill, when
I was working the polls -- or -- yeah, when I was working
the polls, I was so surprised. I thought, "When did we
start doing this," you know, not requiring an ID for
somebody to come and vote. and, again, where have I been?
I just -- it didn't really make any sense to me. It
doesn't make any sense to me today. I think it is common
sense, you know, that somebody would show their ID for
something as important as to vote in America. And so
what is the message that we are sending? Is this
important in America?

And then as another example, just in this last
election, I was standing on election day talking to a
neighbor and talking about, you know, who is running, who
we were hoping was going to win. And she says to me,
"Well, I think I am going to vote for my daughter because
she is out of town." And I immediately said, "You can't
do that; that is illegal." And the reality is she didn't
even know it was illegal. She really didn't think there
was anything wrong with it.

And then the question becomes, are we creating
a population of people who don't even understand what we
are about? And so I really thank every one of you; we
have elected you. I know you have put in tons of hours
and lots of work that we benefit from. And I think this
is probably one of the best works that you can do for us,
as citizens of America or North Carolina, is to pass a
voter ID bill. It is just really common sense. Thank
you so much.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, ma'am.

Speaker number 105, Gerald Mee.

MR. MEE "Me," like a pronoun.

CHAIRMAN: Mee? Speaker number 105, Gerald Mee. You have the floor, sir, for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MR. MEE: My name is Gerald Mee; I am from Wake County. And I am here to speak in support of House Bill 589. I think it is a great first step in getting the fraud cleaned up in our voting system in the state. However, I have one recommendation. In reading the Bill, I noticed there are ten forms of identification required or that can be used.

To the best of my knowledge, only two of those ten require an address or will have an address; the rest don't. I believe that an address is an important form of identification, and that in the final version of this bill, in order to vote -- yes, an ID with a picture is nice, but an associated address would be even better.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, sir.

Speaker 107, Allison Harrison. Welcome, ma'am. You have the floor for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MS. HARRISON: Thank you. My name is
Allison Harrison. I am a native of Burlington and a student at UNC Master's of Social Work program, with a focus on community and policy practice. I appreciate the opportunity to speak, though I would note that holding public hearings in Raleigh on weekdays with one day's -- with one week's notice does not provide an authentic opportunity to hear the voices of the people who would be most impacted by this policy.

This country, as I understand it, was founded in part on the idea that people should have a say in who governs them and how they are governed. And though it may be the responsibility of the individual citizen to vote, it is their responsibility of those who govern to ensure that the right to vote remains unobstructed.

A photo ID law is bad policy but -- because it addresses an almost nonexistent problem. There is no reliable evidence to suggest that voter impersonation is more than a minuscule problem. If three out of four constituents now want photo ID, it is only because they have been convinced with dubious research and with fear mongering rumors that it is necessary.

A photo ID law creates more problems than it solves. It will be costly and unwieldy to implement. You must have a secret to programming administration that I would like to be a part of, if a new agency with 14
employees can educate all the voters, poll workers, and
election officials in every precinct in the state so that
they know all the ID requirements and all the exceptions,
plus proactively provide free IDs to every person in
North Carolina who needs one.

A lot of people talk about photo ID being a part of everyday life. But I would remind you that not everyone lives the same everyday life that you do. Going out of the country, flying on an airplane and buying cold medicine, those are not rights. But voting is. No matter how many considerations you make to account for the people that photo ID could disenfranchise, you continue to place a burden on the people of this state who are already the most burdened.

As a social worker, I can see how this will go down. Are you homeless? Prove it. Are you poor? Prove it. Are you disabled? Prove it. Will we really make people prove that they deserve the same right to vote that people with ID have?

I urge you to do a full nonpartisan study of the problem and a cost benefit analysis. If the problem is the accuracy of the voter rolls, invest in a modern registration system that is linked to the government agencies that people already use on a regular basis. Choose policies that will move us forward. Serve us well
and give all citizens the unencumbered opportunity to
register and vote and participate. Photo ID will take us
backward and limit full voting rights to a privileged
class of people. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, ma'am.

Speaker number 108, Angie Berry. Welcome, ma'am. You
have the floor for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MS. BERRY: Thank you. My name is Angie Berry and I come here today from Orange County. It is a
beautiful day and I would rather be outdoors, but I
thought this was important to take time out of my
schedule -- my busy schedule to come here and address
you, so I thank you for the opportunity.

And I did not come here by bus, I came here
with an individual. I came here on my own volition
because I -- this is important to me. I am a citizen of
this state and I think we should address this as our
state and not be looking at other states for what they
have done or what they are doing.

I have listened to all of the speakers this
afternoon. And the number of speakers who just
disqualify all of the examples that have been given that
we do have voter fraud, which exists in this state --
because you say we do not have it, does not mean it does
not exist. Because it has not been prosecuted does not
mean it does not exist.

We have been given a number of examples that have been presented by this Voter Integrity Project and I wish that you would take them seriously. I, too, have just woken up several years ago, because previously, I was busy as a mother and an employee and a housewife trying to live a normal life. So I was not involved in politics. However, about the last ten years, I have been getting involved and working at the polls and working as a precinct chair and so forth.

If you have not done that, it is a real eye opening experience. If you have not done that, I don't know how you can say that fraud does not exist. If you have not done that, I suggest that maybe you volunteer a day or two and just see what is happening across the state.

I would like to give you just one more example of the many examples that have been given by the Voter Integrity Project. And I do applaud their work that they have done on our behalf. And no one is paying them to do that. And it is not party driven. This is not a party issue. All right?

According to documents -- and this is Wake County Clerk of Courts -- again, another example of where they received evidence from Vicram Aurora (phonetic) that
disqualified the voter from jury duty on the basis of their not being a U.S. citizen. And this not the first example you have heard in this chamber this afternoon.

The actual date of jury disqualification was March 20 of 2012. But a vote was recorded in this person's name on November 4, 2008, nearly four years before. I repeat, the vote occurred before the jury disqualification date. So we view this of a clear case of voter fraud. How can you deny that?

I ask that you look at this Bill. If there are aspects of it that people have indicated that maybe are not in the interest of the public, that you remove them. But a voter ID, I think, is necessary. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, ma'am. Speaker number 110, Imam Mohammad. Sir, welcome. You have the floor for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MR. MOHAMMAD: Greetings, everyone. In the name of God, the beneficent and merciful, I am Imam Erang Smith Mohammad (phonetic). I am very, very involved in Carolina, and prior to that, the State University (incomprehensible).

The discussion of voting and voter ID and a picture to go along with that ID is ludicrous. If Jesus was here today, many of you would not let him vote because he doesn't have a birth certificate. He would
not be allowed to vote. Now, the State of North Carolina has a better legacy and a better (incomprehensible). We will, and God willing, turn this debate around in a few seconds. Be aware that (incomprehensible) in North Carolina, we need to vote to take care of this subject only way (incomprehensible) stopped at McDonald's in Spring Lake, right outside of Fort Bragg. One of the majors from Ft. Bragg was there. We talked briefly. I told him that I was running for the state senate for the fifth time, and working on getting money from the state legislature, especially from the legislative Black Caucus, who do great things for 25 years, getting that money to help the soldiers coming from the war to Ft. Bragg to go to school. He said, "Tell the legislators up there, in Raleigh, when you go up there today, that tuition -- tuition accessibility is what is needed today when the soldiers come home, not just a GI bill."

In North Carolina, we have a history that we should be proud of. But we also have a history that we should not be proud of. My role here today, brothers and sisters, is to let you know that we are extremely proud of President Barack Hussein Obama, his (incomprehensible) voting has brought about that process. Voting is an absolute must.

The Jewish community was going through the
same process in Germany when Hitler and the Germans said, "You need a voter ID picture. I am going to give you a number and put a number -- and put numbers on your arm. And then we are going to take you to the gas chamber."

North Carolina does not need that. No voter ID is required. Now, Ft. Bragg, Fayetteville is (incomprehensible). The generals at Ft. Bragg want you to know that bringing in 40,000 (incomprehensible) from Georgia military bases closing down, coming to Ft. Bragg -- 40,000. Most of them are already at Ft. Bragg, at Fayetteville. It is a $1 billion a year for the past two years. That money must continue to come.

Those of you all playing with voter ID, you are jeopardizing the United States of America, because nations such as China and Korea, they think you are divided. So they want to put -- they want to threaten America. Stand for America first. I am a Vietnam Vet. I am a founder of the Fayetteville Muslin Community, and I am a Vietnam Vet. And the greatest that we can be in American, as President Barrack Obama says, is a good human being. We are not just Democrats and Republicans. Thank you. Bye.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, sir. Speaker number 111, Brooke McGowan. Glad you are here, ma'am. You have the floor for a time not to exceed three
minutes.

MS. MCGOWAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am angry today, and I know a lot of my friends and patriots and comrades and activists are also angry. We are watching the abandonment of common sense for the support of election corruption, not just in North Carolina, but I know that is what we care about today.

Let me tell you about a young lady -- first of all, I am a missionary, a chaplain, and an activist, but I also work part-time in a store. And because I am a counselor, my manager came over to speak to me and he asked me to help a young lady who had been locked in the bathroom for two hours. She locked herself in our bathroom; she had escaped a dangerous situation. And I lured her out and we spoke for a little while.

She had been abused; she ran out of her home without a purse. She did not have ID, she had nowhere to go. She had no family left in Charlotte; she had family in Chicago, no family to turn to here. So immediately we looked for ways to find shelter for her. Now, I looked at several ministries that I was aware of in the Charlotte area -- not only ministries, but also, you know, the public -- women's home, Salvation Army, those sorts of things. No one would receive her without an ID.

We are hearing a lot from the opposition that
we are disenfranchising the poor. May I ask you, who is more poor than the homeless? Sun Mei (phonetic) wanted to find her some help outside just shelter. She stayed at my home for a good number of days. And she needed some money for food, which I took her to DSS; we tried to get her help in all ways possible, through the DSS in Mecklenburg County.

She was denied three times for any kind of assistance. But at the end of the question, each time it was, "Oh, but have you registered to vote? I am sorry we can't help you, but have you registered to vote?" This is lunacy. Does anyone deny it? This is lunacy that we are abandoning any common sense in this issue.

Now, earlier today, we have heard opponents of voter ID say things like -- make these claims of, "Do you have no confidence in us, government? The U.S. Government doesn't have confidence in me to know that I am who I say I am?" Many of you are attorneys in this room. And let me ask you this. We used to have contracts by the shaking of a hand. Does that still occur? Would that hold up in court?

Yes, we have lost confidence because we have watched corruption. Now, listen, someone else just said a moment ago, "You want to make it harder for people to vote." I claim we want to make it harder for people to
cheat. Thank you for the time.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, ma'am. Speaker Number 1 -- if you will, sir, one moment. Just for planning purposes, for the members that are here and our guests, it is the Chair's intent to hear the next five presenters, and then we are going to take a 15 minute recess. I just wanted everybody to know where we were.

So at this time, it is my pleasure to welcome speaker number 112, Mr. Hovis [sic] Stannard, and if I mispronounced that, sir, please correct me. But you have the floor for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MR. STANNARD: Yes, it is Louis Stannard, and thank you for the opportunity to speak. I live in Wake County. And on the occasion of the 2012 elections, I was enlisted to be a poll observer. And after going through the training to try and get enough people to cover all of the early voting sites, I found out that my job was to be, certainly, an observer. You couldn't say a thing. You could only write down your comments and send them in through normal channels to the Board of Elections.

Well, as I sat there on polling day -- and this happened many times over. This is just the first occasion, when the poll doors opened, I saw three
gentlemen line up in front of the registrars to check voter ID. And I could not hear anything, but I observed this. It was almost like a well choreographed duet. The clerk would ask them their names. I couldn't hear them respond, but I saw them both reach into their pockets and read off their addresses. And they were given the provisional ballot to go over to the tables.

And I could see the tables over there. And again, I could not hear, but I observed when they pulled out their form of identification, both of them happened to be a Progress Energy bill that had never seen the creases of an envelope in their lives.

And I knew I was observing voter fraud at that time. And I was being played as a sucker in this whole process to choreograph supposedly a legal election. But that wasn't all. This happened several more times during my two occasions to be poll observer that I witnessed these things. And to not know that you are observing voter fraud during this time, you would have to be a fool.

And then consider the recent case investigated, again, by us for Buncombe County Board of Elections. It featured a voter named Tamara Lynette Sawickie (phonetic). And this person of interest appears to have voted illegally by exploiting provision of law
called "One Stop Voting" or "Same Day Registration." And according to their own documents, the Buncombe County Board of Elections, Tamara Sawickie registered to vote on 10/25/2012 at an early voting location. And during the Board's routine follow up mail to this voter, they were unable to make any further contact. This leads us to believe that a crime occurred, and one voter was disenfranchised because another vote stole their vote. And as of February this year, the voter was coded, "confirmation not returned." Thank you very much for your attention.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, sir.

Speaker number 114, Tom Owen. Welcome, sir. You have the floor for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MR. OWEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Ladies and gentlemen, I imagine your ears are sort of wearing down. You have heard a hundred of us. I suggest that we are the tip of the iceberg, and that there are a whole lot more voters out in North Carolina who are upset with the amount of fraud that is going on in our state than you see represented here. We are legion.

The gentlemen who spoke about 60,000 voters in Wake County with questionable addresses -- it is appalling. And you should think about these things.

What is going in Wake County, one of our most populous
counties, is probably going on elsewhere. To me, it
seems the case is relatively firm. Voter fraud is going
on. It is like a sieve. Gentlemen and ladies, please
throw out the sieve and get us a bucket so we can stop
the problem. We have got to do it. I agree with the
need for a voter ID.

I also think we should separate the
registration process from the voting process so one stop
voting is not possible. We have got to be able verify
the people who vote. To solve the ID problem I would
suggest several things. Take a picture of the voter when
they register. Use that picture -- a digital image -- in
facial recognition and provide that facial recognition to
the polling place so that a camera and a computer can
verify that people are entitled to vote.

Does it work? Yeah. I photographed one of my
triplet children -- grandchildren, I should say, at
birth. And the software, which came free, as it
happened, identified him all the way through his eighth
year. He is just eight now, but it identified every
picture I had ever taken of him without error.

Prosecute those who are abusing the law. This
problem is a cancer of the freedom of this country and on
the integrity of our voting system. Please, gentlemen
and ladies, give us a voter ID bill with teeth. Thank
Chairman: Thank you, sir. Speaker 117, Robert Randall. You have the floor for a time not to exceed three minutes.

Mr. Randall: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Robert Randall of Orange County. For the past two years I have been the party chairman for -- in Orange County, and I want to share some experiences that I have had being party chair. Much of my thunder has already been stolen, so I am going to try to be brief. I too have witnessed vans come to -- with mentally incompetent riding where the driver did all the voting for all the many mentally incompetent. I think that is wrong. I think laws should address that situation.

I had a poll observer -- we have about 80 poll observers working through early voting and election day. But I had one lady call me who was working in the Chapel Hill area. And she says, "I smell a rat." I said, "What is wrong?" And she said, "We have tons of students who are doing the One Stop Voting. They are filling out their registration form and they are not putting their previous address in there." And I said, "Well, that seems wrong. I am going to check that out."

So I went to the board of director -- the director of Board of Elections and I said, "What is going
on. These people aren't putting their previous registration information down there." And let me back up to say that this poll observer said, "These are not freshmen, you know. They are older students." Anyway, I was informed that the law does not require that. That is not good.

I also wanted to mention that I had another poll observer who worked at the early voting site on UNC campus. A gentleman worked actually 13 days as an observer. He -- toward the end of his, I guess, work, he called me and says, "you know, I know I am seeing some of the same voters coming here to vote again and again," he says. "But I can't prove it. It is just frustrating." And we have no way of identifying that now.

One other situation was when I went to vote at an early voting site, I walked into the polling place and, you know, me -- I nominated -- as chairman, I was able to nominate the election judges for my party. I didn't see a single person -- single election judge in there representing my party.

I went to the director again and questioned her about this, how this could be. And she said, "That requirement of having representatives from the major parties only pertains to election day only. It does not pertain to early voting." That is another issue that I
I feel like is not right and needs to be addressed. Thank you for your time.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, sir.

Speaker number 118, Adam Sotak -- did I say that correctly, sir?

MR. SOTAK: You did, Chairman Lewis.

CHAIRMAN: We are glad you are here, sir. You have the floor for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MR. SOTAK: Thank you, Chairman Lewis, Chairman Moore, members of the Committee. My name is Adam Sotak. I am the organizing director with Democracy North Carolina. We are a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization based in Durham. And our mission is uphold the principle of one person, one vote.

I agree with what a lot of things Ms. Brown said earlier. So I guess you can boo and hiss at me as well. But the fact of the matter is, is that, you know, voter fraud is virtually nonexistent. You have got some talking points here where you are throwing out some accusations of voter fraud, but I mean, Speaker Tillis went on MSNBC a couple of weekends ago and said, basically, “We know voter fraud is very limited, and this is not about that.” It is interesting to me that it gets harped on over and over and over again.
And I think it is about fear. I think it is about, you know, fear of this idea that you are holding on to some type of traditional values or something that you are losing because of the increasing diversity of our state, and who the people are who show up to vote and participate. And I think that is unfortunate, because I don't think that is a good way to make public policy. I think that it needs to be more based on fact and reality.

And just because, again, something is said over and over again, you can drum up support of 75 percent of the folks out there, doesn't mean that it needs to be done. I hope that if we get a poll out that says that 75 percent of the people say that folks should be given a regular ballot instead of provisional ballot when they don't have their identification, that you will then amend the bill to say that, because I think most folks would say that you should have reasonable ways for people to cast a vote.

Just like the absentee rules, you are talking about having somebody with the last four digits of their Social or their driver's license number on the absentee ballot, why in the world would you not allow that for somebody who shows up at the polls without an identification and put that down and vote a regular ballot. It makes absolutely no sense to me.
But just a couple of other points. You have
got to provide free voter IDs. I mean, this idea that
you somehow, you know, state that you are indigent and
that is subject to perjury or what have you, that is --
that is a ridiculous part of this legislation, and I
can't imagine it would be upheld to the Department of
Justice.

And also, you know, a lot of these other
things that have been talked about, again, are not doing
anything to deal with this issue of voter impersonation
fraud, even if you believe that that is an issue that
occurs. These are other issues that folks are talking
about with, you know, confirmations coming back in the
mail or what have you, which, again, there are probably
reasonable explanations for. That is what we often find
with these. And it is borderline slanderous to be up
here saying that people have fraudulently voting when you
don't have that information at your fingertip. So I
would just encourage you to be cognizant of that.

And lastly, this is going to cost millions of
millions of dollars to implement -- something that is
unnecessary. And it is going to create another layer of
bureaucracy in order to do that, so I find that rather
ironic.

CHAIRMAN: The chair thanks you, sir.
Speaker number 119, Larry Marciniak, we appreciate you being with us tonight, sir. You have the floor for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MR. MARCINIAK: Good evening. First off, I would like to thank all the members of the House that stayed here. I personally appreciate it. I don't know about anybody else, but I hope we have got some friends. First, a couple of observations. There was a lot of evidence, being polite, given today, much of it is long debunked, much of it is anecdotal. And there is just an eerie similarity to the language. I will let you draw your own conclusions on how that happened.

I am going to read a couple of brief excerpts from an article of mine, which was published today. “Here's a dirty little secret. North Carolina Republicans are using Georgia as their model. In fact, they viewed a PowerPoint presentation based on the Georgia law and experience. The North Carolina legislation has a public education aspect to it, as did the Georgia law. Interestingly, Georgia ran over 60,000 PSAs -- Public Service Announcements, those are the ads on the radio. They all ran on radio stations owned by Clear Channel. Clear Channel also happens to own the Premier Radio Networks. The Premier Radio Networks have been and/or still are, the home to Rush Limbaugh, Glenn
Beck, and Shawn Hannity. That is right wing talk radio. This sounds to me like a GOP get out the vote effort, not like voter education. I don't want that done on my dime.

To add to the fiscal conservatism of this measure, there is a whole new bureaucracy. See, that can cost money. I don't know how much; it is going to cost something. If the Republicans feel they need to address a problem, I suggest they address the real one of unemployment. North Carolina is within a half percentage point of having the highest unemployment rate in the country, and it has the highest unemployment rate in the south.” Thank you, good evening.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, sir. Next up is Reverend Curtis Gatewood. I am glad you are here, sir. You have the floor for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MR. GATEWOOD: Thank you. Let the church say Amen. Let me begin by saying I am Reverend Curtis E. Gatewood of the North Carolina State Conference of the NAACP, where we are blessed to have the Reverend Dr. William J. Barber, II, as our president. I am also speaking from the spiritual perspective, as a minister of the gospel, who finds the necessity in a time such as this to remember North Carolinians and remind the world of how the U.S. Constitution, as well as the North
Carolina Constitution are supposedly based upon certain Christian principles, as they affirm as elected officials, swear in on a Bible, which begs their need to read it.

The voter ID bill does not pass the smell test constitutionally, morally, legally, or spiritually. Those politicians, if they would read the Bible they swore in on, they will agree with us when we say, "God is a God of justice." For example, in Jesus' introductory sermon, in Luke 4:18, He stated, "I came to bring good news to the poor, to hear the broken hearted, to deliver the captives and set the oppressed free." So when some of the same politicians who are "poli-tricking" and carrying out the wicked agenda of voter suppression have the audacity to get up and say there are certain things we ought not do on Sunday, it deceitfully sends the message that politicians who are apparently dedicating their service toward protecting the interest of the rich and powerful one or two percent here in North Carolina are the ones who are looking after God's interest -- or God's interest in the Sabbath day. That is like hungry wolves determining what is best for the hens in the hen house. No, God wants justice -- Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

We, the NAACP across this nation, for 104
years have and will always stand for the unabridged and
unfettered right to vote. We have never tried to stop
anyone from voting. We wear the blood and the scars of
those who had to bear the brunt of racism and voter
suppression past generations. So we stand on moral
ground when we come here to this hearing tonight, saying
we want the right to vote forever. We do not want the
right to vote to be abridged. We do not want hypocrisy,
we want democracy.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, sir.

Ladies and gentlemen, in spite of the announcement the
Chair made a little bit earlier, if there is not
objection to the suspension of Rule 12B, which for those
of us -- those of you who don't speak legislative
parlance means the ability to eat in this room -- if
there is not objection to Rule 12B, the Chair is going to
instruct the staff to bring the food in over here to the
Chair's right. And we have tried to count, and it seems
we have just enough food for everyone here except the
press. Actually, I did miscount and accidentally did
include the press.

So what we will do now, since there is no
objection to this suspension of Rule 12B, if our guests
in the back would be kind enough to let the members of
the House and the Senate go through first, so they can
return to their seats, we will only take a five minute break and then we will resume with speaker number 121. So seeing no objection, we will stand in recess until 7:20.

CHAIRMAN: OFF THE RECORD. 7:06 P.M.

(A BRIEF RECESS WAS TAKEN.)

CHAIRMAN: ON THE RECORD. 7:20 P.M.

CHAIRMAN: Ladies and gentlemen, if you will, please move back to your seats, and we are going to resume. If we could get the members to return to their seats, please. At this time, the Chair is pleased to recognize speaker 121, Carla McElroy. Ma'am, we are glad you are here. You have the floor for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MS. MCELROY: Thank you. My name is Carla McElroy, and I came today from Wake County. One of your first speakers who is opposed to voter ID listed adoption as a deterrent to obtaining a valid ID in one of her examples. This was a deliberate attempt to mislead you. As an adoptee myself, the process to obtain a birth certificate is the same for me as it is for all of you. All that is required is a request to Vital Records.

I have a driver's license, I have a Social Security card. I have other forms of ID. And I have never had an issue obtaining any of them.
Now, many opponents of voter integrity have justified their views by denying the existence of voter fraud in North Carolina. We respectfully disagree. They say that our evidence is anecdotal, but here is factual evidence of fraud.

In the case of Gertie Brown (phonetic), we found out that she was born on 8/23/1920, and died on 11/19/2004. Gabby Lipton (phonetic) voted from 992 Manning Road. Someone else stole this person's identity and voted in 2006. But this crime would never have happened if our state had a real voter ID law on the books. This is one -- just one example of voter fraud in North Carolina, but we have several more.

How many more voter fraud cases will it take for you to recognize that election fraud is a serious problem? One stolen vote disenfranchises someone else's honest vote. While some fraud denying groups continue to attack the reformers, we believe that the facts should stand for themselves. Our findings are just the tip of the iceberg because our limited -- because of our limited access to government data.

We sincerely hope that you will remember that you were elected because the people of North Carolina are sick of election fraud. You have only one chance to get this right, so please keep that in mind. Repeat --
remove the fraud-friendly loopholes and give North Carolina a real voter ID law. Thank you, very much.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, ma'am.

Speaker number 122, Nanette Godwin.

MS. GODWIN: I guess I have three minutes?

CHAIRMAN: And, ma'am, you guessed correctly. The floor is yours for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MS. GODWIN: Before I even say anything that I wanted to say, I have got to make reference to a couple of things that have been mentioned prior to my getting up here. One is Germany also disarmed all of their citizens before Hitler came to real power. And also, we are in dangerous territory when we start using the sweet name of Jesus as a pawn in the middle of this mess. And spiritually speaking, God does not want hatred; he wants love. And he does not want dishonesty; he wants truth.

And my name -- well, I -- I am supposed to say my name first. My name is Nanette Meyer (phonetic) Godwin, and I was reared -- born and reared in Charlotte, North Carolina, Mecklenburg County, and I now reside in Wake County.

As I have heard, so many of the things that have been said tonight, I kept thinking, "It is so sad.
How did we get to this point?" You know, I was reared to be honest. I remember even the example set by my parents. My father stopped for gas one time and forgot to pay for a 49 cent handkerchief. He drove back 25 miles to return so that he could pay for that 49 cent handkerchief. Is that not happening this day and time anywhere?

You know, there are many opponents of voter integrity that tend to justify their abuse by denying the existence of voter fraud. But I have to disagree, and I only have one minute to say this. We are watching and hearing all of these instances of voter fraud. And if you don't think of anything else, it is practical to think that people are going to do wrong. There are some people -- I mean, that is why we have police, that is why we have laws. So you can't deny that there are -- just by the law of averages there are going to be some things that are wrong.

And I don't have time to say what I wanted to say, but let me just say that all supporters -- I am just going to end by saying this. All supporters of voter ID just want the assurance that votes are being cast honestly. Anyone who is standing in the way of honest voting, shame on you. And any of you who don't do something about this, shame, shame on you.
CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, ma'am. Speaker number 123, Linda Harper. You have the floor, ma'am, for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MS. HARPER: I am Linda Harper, and I am from Wayne County. And I represent Citizens for Constitutional Liberties, and I am in support of the voter ID -- photo ID law. But I wanted to say that I was here last time, and I listened to 91 negative opinions about voter ID. And I was very respectful. And I appreciate all of you who have listened to 90-some positive opinions of voter ID. That is what is great about America, is that we can have our personal opinions and -- but as we listened to all of the documentation from the different counties that there is actually voter fraud, I would urge you to pass a voter ID law -- a photo ID law. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, ma'am. Speaker 124, Miriam Aikens. Glad you are here, ma'am. You have the floor for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MS. AIKENS: Thank you, everyone, for allowing us to speak today. It is a right and a freedom of ours. I am Miriam Aikens. I am from Rockingham County. I also am -- I am also a minister of the Gospel. Our nation -- our state was based, and our constitutional rights were based on Judeo-Christian values. The
Preamble to our State Constitution swears our allegiance to God. Our national does, as well. A few things bothered me tonight, but I am here to speak in favor of a photo ID. One quote that I truly enjoy is, "Freedom requires virtue. Virtue requires faith." All of these things are things that we must have in order to sustain freedom here, in the United States. Those things also speak to integrity, which photo ID provides. It provides integrity.

I heard someone earlier say that the North Carolina Black Caucus is touting that a photo ID will hurt minorities. Some people would say I am a minority. I don't see where a photo ID has suppressed my right to vote. It is also condescending, if you want to know the truth about it, that the NAACP or the Black Caucus would say it would suppress minorities.

And to use the word of God that teaches us how to prosper is also an affront. The thing about it is is that God desires that all of us prosper. Minorities are able to prosper. They are able to get ID. They are able to make decisions that will require integrity. It will affect minorities if you don't pass a photo ID legislation bill because it will not guarantee minorities one vote, one person, because who is to say that someone from Iran would not come and take your vote? Who is to
say a terrorist may not come and stand in line and give your name?

It is to protect all the peoples' vote, not just minorities, but everyone's vote. Stop being suppressed by ideologies that say you are not able to vote because somebody might ID you.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, ma'am. Speaker number 125, Diane Parnell. Welcome, ma'am. You have the floor for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MS. PARNELL: Thank you. My name is Diane Parnell. I am from Rockingham County, and we drove this way so that we could stand up for voter ID today. Some people today have said that voter fraud does not exist. We know it does. I read the newspaper article that said North Carolina had very little voter fraud. Oh, my goodness, you know so.

My husband worked the polls, saw van after van drive up, health care workers brought their people from the nursing homes. Curbside voting, which is a good thing, because there were some disabled people, but this was terrible that they got to vote because these people were -- didn't even know where they were. They didn't know that they were voting, much less who Obama or Mitt Romney was. We have got to take care of that, folks.

I have a friend that went down to vote. He
1 pulled out his ID and he said, "I want you to see it.
2 And while I am here, I want you to check on my mom; tell
3 me if she is still eligible." And they said, "Oh, yeah.
4 We have her right here; she is still eligible." Well,
5 she died at 101, three years ago. So do we have any
6 voter fraud? Yes, sir, we do.

Rachel Pinion (phonetic), Mecklenburg County, she died on 10/8/2003. She managed to vote in 2005.
Lynell DeLogue (phonetic) of Forsythe County, she is being investigated for voter fraud. There are many of these instances, folks. We need this voter ID bill. And
I am so proud that you are considering this.

A vote for this voter ID is a vote for North Carolina. It is a vote to move ahead. And let's be positive. Thank you, very much.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, ma'am. Speaker number 127, Micky Silvers.

MR. SILVERS: That is correct. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: Glad you are here, sir. You have the floor for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MR. SILVERS: Thank you. And my name is Mickey Silvers. I am from Madison, North Carolina, Rockingham County. And I actually had not planned on speaking. When I went online to register I saw that it had closed, so I just came in here in support and very
appreciative of having the opportunity to speak.

I am also, a result of the ballot, twelve years of Board of Alderman, four years of the mayor of the Town of Madison -- former mayor now. So I have been on both sides, not only casting a ballot, but the result of the ballot, just as you gentleman and ladies are, here. And I don't have anything written down to speak. I didn't plan on speaking, so I don't have anything to read.

What I am saying comes from this muscle inside my rib cage that continues to beat. In fact, I hope it continues to beat. But it is for this fabric back here and this piece of fabric over here -- our flags.

And I don't want to oversimplify things, but I heard one representative that is opposed to this refer to this as a "minuscule problem." Regardless of the adjective, it is what? A problem. I heard another say that it was "virtually" nonexistent. Well guess what; it still exists. I appreciate your efforts in trying to curb this.

I don't want to oversimplify things, like I said, but if you have a plumbing issue, if a pipe breaks in your home, the first thing you do is get on the phone and you call a plumber. You get that problem fixed. If the lights begin to flicker and you smell something
burning, you disconnect the power source. And the first thing you do is call an electrician to get the problem fixed. Well, ladies and gentlemen, we have a problem and I am calling your number. And I would like you to fix it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir. Speaker 128, Norris Aikens. You have the floor for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MR. AIKENS: Good evening. My name is Norris Aikens. I live in Rockingham County, North Carolina. I came here in support of voter ID. I have a paper here that mentions some details about a particular individual that -- you have heard a lot about the fraud that was committed in Buncombe County.

But one of the reasons I am here is that when I first became active in the party, I immediately began to work the polls. And immediately I noticed something did not look right. I hadn't been around long enough to know that there was such a thing as voter fraud. But I recognized some things that didn't look right.

I am a grandfather, a great-grandfather. I have a wife that 17 years ago went home to be with the Lord. It depresses me to think that these 17 years, she may have been voting. Just the possibility of that is wrong. We heard an earlier speaker speak about how we
locked our doors not because we have been burglarized, but precautionary. If nothing else, this should be precautionary, even though you do have evidence. Vote yes for picture voter ID. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir. Next speaker 129 is the Honorable Abe Jones. Sir, we are glad you are here. You have the floor for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MR. JONES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am speaking to the empty house, I guess, but I just want to say that I didn't come to get down into the midst of the debate. I think the debate is pretty much over, and I came to talk about the bill. I would suggest strongly to those that support the bill to make a change in the bill and make voter IDs -- photo voter ID free for everybody who wants to access them. Put a check on the tax form, so that when people pay their taxes and they check that little box that goes to the election thing, let that fund partially pay for the free voter IDs.

Most of the people won't even go get those, because they have so many choices anyway, already. You have got a driver's license, got student IDs, et cetera. But it would eliminate any excuse for anybody to say, "my voting has been impaired." So make it free. Free to everybody. Eliminate the hardship requirement in 166.13
or 163-166.13, and then come around and take the --
change the ID to have a general State ID that is
available to anyone who wants it. Period, flat out. And
that destroys any argument. It is done. Done deal. And
I think if that is done, then those who feel it is done
to suppress the vote can go out and cheer people on and
say, get your ID the same way you get your registration
card.

And I am thinking there are a lot of polls
that have already shown that many -- some of the states,
actual voting has gone up. So I don't think there is
something to fear here. And I know I am probably getting
in trouble with some people. I am taking a risk. But I
just think that that would be the answer: free,
accessible voter ID to everybody. Game over. Thank you,
very much.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir. Speaker 131,
Alan Hoyle. You have the floor for a time not to exceed
three minutes.

MR. HOYLE: Yes, sir. Thank you.
Appreciate the freedom to be here tonight, and I just
want to say I thank you for all the Representatives and
the Board and stuff that puts forward so much work and
effort to be here, and the long hours and away from their
family and all these things that Americans take for
granted, and all these things that they don't even know
about, because they don't attend here.

When I was born, I was given a birth
certificate. When I went to school, I got a school card.
When I give blood, I am going to have a blood card. When
I go to drive -- went to start driving, I got a driver's
license. When I went in the marines, I got an ID. When
I go to other countries, I have a passport. When I die,
I get a birth certificate -- a death certificate. When
people go to jail, they get fingerprinted and a picture
ID. So as a proud patriotic citizen, I want people to
know who I am, so when I vote, I should be required to
prove who I am. And then I have the right and duty to
vote one time.

Even the Bible declares the law for nations
and people who are citizens. And finally, Jesus declares
that if your name is not written into the book of life,
you are not getting into heaven. And Jesus knows the
thoughts and intents of your heart. He even knows the
hairs of your head. So that is an ID. Thou shalt not
lie, and thou shall not steal. So these should be
punishable offenses that has been mentioned that these
people should be held accountable for.

I know your job is not easy, but it is the
duty of you elected officials to prove someone can hold
office and those that should be able to vote. And I feel that these both have not been done. And I think there are proof, and proof and proof has been given that these have not been carried out.

You also have a duty to obey the Constitution. No one should be able to destroy the Constitution. There has been too much bloodshed that has been given up for protection of the Constitution, for being able to give somebody the right to vote, the freedom to vote.

And it is a shame that citizens of America, every one, do not get out and vote. But they need to vote honestly and not break any law by lying and stealing someone other's ID. Honor your oath and make North Carolina a sovereign state. And Jesus' parents, I want to remind you, they had to travel to Joseph's home country. And they knew who he was.

So we do need to be able to show and prove who people are, that they are who they say they are, and not to do anything illegal by lying or stealing someone else's place and position, because it is important. And we, as Americans, need to stand up for America and North Carolina. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir. Speaker number 132, Allen Sovak. So glad you are here, sir. You have the floor for a time not to exceed three minutes.
MR. SOVAK: I would like to thank the Committee and the honorables that are still here for allowing me to speak. This is the first time for me, and I am 84. And I want to tell you, it is an honor to be here. And I will make a statement and then if I have any time left, I will speak.

My name is Allen Sovak. I come from Brunswick county. Many opponents of voter -- of voter integrity tend to justify their views by denying the existence of voter fraud in North Carolina. We respectfully disagree. Consider this case -- recent case investigated by the Voter Integrity Project in North Carolina. It featured a voter named Lucia Jane (phonetic). This person is interested -- this person of interest proved his or her non-U.S. citizenship status to the North Carolina court system after voting in an election.

According to their own documents, the Wake County Clerk of Courts received evidence that Lucia Jane that disqualified the voter from jury duty on the basis of their not being a U.S. citizen. The actual date of the jury disqualification was 6/9/2008, but a vote was recorded by this person's name in 11/2/204 [sic]. I repeat, the vote concerned before the jury disqualification date, so we view this as a clear case of voter fraud.
Our evidence turned over -- was turned over to the Board of Elections, but they didn't seem to move. Not only did they deny all of our challenges by using hearsay evidence, but the North Carolina Administrative Office of the courts quickly moved to deny us access to similar jury duty disqualifications. The State Board of Education -- of Elections appeared to be more interested in dealing -- in derailing our investigation than about the fact that non-U.S. citizens are voting in elections.

This is just another example of voter fraud in North Carolina, and we have a lot more. I will say this: while some groups oppose any credible election reform by making the messenger -- by attacking the messenger, we believe the facts should stand for themselves. Our findings are just the tip of an iceberg, because voter fraud is a very real problem in our state. We sincerely hope that you gentlemen and ladies who were elected because the people of North Carolina are sick of election fraud [sic].

You have only one chance to do us right. So please keep that in mind and remove the real voter fraud friendly loopholes and get North Carolina's real voter law [sic]. I just want -- okay. Fine. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, sir. Speaker 134, Eli Brightbill. You have the floor, sir,
for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MR. BRIGHTBILL: I want to reach anyone that is undecided on this issue, which I doubt there is anyone left in this room at this point. But one of the main things I want to stress is the importance of the government to enforce laws. And without this bill, we do not have the ability to enforce the law, which is that you can vote one time and one time only if you are a United States citizen.

People use IDs for everything. And I know people have listed countless reasons. Just to name a few, you have to have an ID to get cough syrup, go into the White House, which is the people's house, go to the 2012 Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, buy cigarettes and to buy alcohol. My school, Southern Lee High School, in Sanford, North Carolina, requires that all students wear an ID at all times present around their neck. If I do not have this ID on during the day, they make me -- actually, they charge me $6 to buy one. And if I do not wear it multiple times in a row, I get in trouble and disciplinary actions are brought upon me.

Now, people have also listed the issue of rights. Owning a gun is a right at the same time, but you cannot buy a gun without a photo ID. And if anyone in this room that is an opponent of voter ID would be
okay with me going to the store and buying a firearm without a photo ID, please come talk to me after I am done speaking.

I believe that having a photo ID is a necessity at this point in our nation. The men behind me do not wear white wigs. Times have changed. I believe that the government has a responsibility to enforce the law. And I am going to quit with that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir. Speaker 136, Pat?

MS. BATKO: Batko.

CHAIRMAN: Batko. Glad you are here. You have the floor for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MS. BATKO: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the guests who have still hung in there with us. My name is Pat Batko. I came here today from Wake County, and I volunteer with the Voter Integrity Program, and have worn out a laptop last summer comparing all these lists, but I can personally attest to the validity and the thoughtfulness that has gone into our research.

There are a lot of examples who have been given -- that have been given to you today. I can mention a woman from Robeson County. What we had to do
was we took the North Carolina Department of Public Health Death Records, we took then the North Carolina voter roles, compared the two and then -- to find deceased people who registered to vote. And I personally have found, you know, several -- "several" being a pretty good number there.

We screened the data, then, to see who voted after death, then we confirmed their death with the Social Security Death Index, and used that site to learn their date of birth. And that was just one more check that we used to make sure that were talking about the same people.

Finally, we used their date of birth to examine their voter history. So we are not hurling baseless accusations here. We are not trying to slander people. But there are situations based on these facts gained from public records.

So there is a case here. Sara Locklear, we found that she was born September 16th, 1915, and passed away February 7th, 2001. And she lived and voted from 379 Mt. Olive Church Road, okay, in Robeson County. But somebody else obviously stole this person's identity, and voted in 2004. This crime would not have happened had we had a real voter ID law on the books. This is just one example. There are many, many more. Others have
1 mentioned them, and we found some that we haven't even
talked about.

I sincerely hope that the members of the
legislature will remember that you were elected because
the people of North Carolina sincerely want voter fraud
[sic]. Please give North Carolina a strong and fair
voter ID law. Thank you for your time.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, ma'am. Speaker
number 135 [sic], Geraldine Sovak. Welcome, ma'am. You
have the floor for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MS. SOVAK: Hi. My name is Gerry Sovak,
and I am from Brunswick County. You just heard my
husband speak; he was the old fellow with the walker.
The long trip up from Brunswick is going to be a long
trip back, but we both felt that we needed to be here to
speak for the right to have our vote counted. We know we
will all have the right to vote, but we want the right to
have our vote counted.

And I have, of course, another one of these
things here from the Voter Integrity people, who have
done a magnificent job in their research. And I don't
have to bore you any more with more from Buncombe County.
We have a guy, Keith Miles Avery (phonetic), and he did
the same thing that all the rest of them from that county
did. And the 18 people must be way more than 18 by now
who lost out on that election, because of the people who cheated in the election.

And just briefly, I do some electioneering. I have also been a poll observer, and I see some very interesting things with people shuffling papers, trying to find an address that would be acceptable for them to vote, and a Progress Energy bill or something, and any kind of a thing to prove who they were and that they did, in fact, live some place.

And one quick thing. I also know a lot of old ladies who aren't as fortunate as I. And they are home. And they are incapable of voting. And I know a lot about them and I could easily go to several different polling sites and say that I am this one and I am that one, I am the other one. It would be the easiest thing in the world. And when I work for some candidate, we have a list of all the polling people, some of whom moved away 20 years ago, and some of them are long since dead, and they are still voting.

Thank you for letting me speak. And please vote for photo ID.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, ma'am. Speaker number 138, Chuck Campbell. You have the floor, sir, for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MR. CAMPBELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
Thank you to the Representatives who decided to stay, and to the ladies and gentlemen who are here. My name is Chuck Campbell. I am a resident of Wake County and I voted in North Carolina for 22 years, I have lived in Catawba County, Mecklenburg County, and Wake County. And prior to that, I served in the United States Navy, where I had the opportunity to vote in Pennsylvania, Florida, and California.

Interesting footnote for you is, when I was serving aboard the U.S.S. Dwight D. Eisenhower, deployed overseas, I had to take my military absentee ballot and stand before my division officer, who sat about as far as that gentleman is up there in the cream colored jacket from me every day. And he said, "Petty Officer Campbell, I need to see your identification."

Okay? I would remind the earlier speakers who come here in God's name that our God is a God of law and order. He is not a God of chaos. I am here today to speak in favor of House Bill 589. I have read it. I am also going to let you know you can see some of these remarks recorded on my TV program, The Chuck Campbell show, Raleigh television network Channel 10, Time Warner Cable 10, and AT&T U-Verse across the state.

So in October of 2012, I was a poll observer. And I worked at the Holly Springs W.E. Hunt Center, as
well as Wake Tech Campus. I observed several suspicious activities: poll workers offering addressees to voters; first time voters registering and voting without an ID -- you know, bring your utility bill or your neighbor's utility bill or your roommate's utility bill; buses at curbside voting with one poll worker going out and giving ballots to ten or 15 people -- and assistants, of course; cars with out-of-state tags pulling up to curbside voting with two people in the car, getting two ballots at one time, and God knows when they are going back to New Jersey after they vote.

There is absolutely no way to challenge a voter in this state. So the claims that there is no voter fraud are fallacious. The illegals, non-residents, anybody can go vote in this state. Even in Iraq they had to have a blue thumb. That wasn't because they were bragging about voting. That was so they wouldn't go back and do it again.

When voter fraud happens, it cancels out my and your legitimately cast vote. And I like 589 because it says we can challenge people. In early voting, people from all across the county come and vote. And nobody can challenge them, because you don't know them. And I think being able to challenge, and also having a digital photo log -- poll book would be a great idea, too. You know,
they have it when I go to the State Employees Credit Union. They have got my picture there. They know who I am.

I have two words for you: identify theft.

Now, if you would please take the same care and diligence over the vote as you do over your money, I think we would all be a lot better off. Thank you, and God bless this great state.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir. Speaker 139, Bob Jackson. Welcome, sir. You have the floor for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MR. JACKSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is Bob Jackson. I am from Wayne County, the home, part of Jimmy Dickson's district. We are proud of him and his work. There was a place in North Carolina in the last election where Mrs. Jones resided. And there was a person who voted for her. And she died in 11/17/2011. I am also aware of a person in Wayne County who admitted that they had voted twice.

I certainly am in favor of this bill. I hope that we can do it in such a way that there could be a photo ID available. I think that there would be plenty of ways to make that happen to those who claim that that would be an inconvenience to them. And I believe that it is very necessary, and that the integrity of our voting
system is so important. As you heard today from many speakers of individuals that have died and still voted, it does happen. We do have voter fraud in North Carolina, and it is, I believe, time to see if we can fix that. Thank you, very much.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir. Speaker number 141, Tiffany Birkner. Glad you are here, ma'am. You have the floor for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MS. BIRKNER: Thank you. Hi. I am Tiffany Birkner, and I live in Wake County. I am here tonight missing my son's baseball game because I believe that the ability to have fair elections is that important. I am here to support government issued photo IDs for voting.

I believe that the opponents of voter ID know very well that their arguments are desperate lies. Photo IDs do not have to be a driver's license; they have other government forms of photo ID, so that is -- not being able to drive is not a valid reason. The poor, the elderly need IDs for everything, including all their government entitlements, Medicare, Medicaid, food stamps, Social Security, SSDI, prescriptions, urgent care, doctors' appointments, on and on and on.

The fact that this would even be a debate is just appalling to me because it is so common sense; it is
a no brainer. Let's see. The opposition to photo ID
argues that it disenfranchises voters and takes away
their right to vote. The rampant voter fraud takes away
my right to vote.

For example -- sorry. The head of voter
registration -- one of the heads, his name was Jim
Turner. He lives in Chapel Hill. And he bragged on
Twitter and Facebook about voting five times in this past
presidential election. Had he not bragged about that, we
would never have known. So therefore, he disenfranchised
my right to vote. His five votes more than cancelled out
my one vote in this presidential election.

I receive my -- the person that I bought my
house from 15 year ago, I receive all of his voter IDs or
voter registrations in the mail. If my husband and I
were dishonest, we could vote for his name because were
at his address in every single election. We believe in
America, so we don't do that, but unfortunately, there is
many who do.

Bottom line is, this is America. This is not
Cuba. This is not a dictatorship. We have to keep our
elections fair. And this has not been happening. The
voter fraud is so rampant, and it is just -- it is
completely influencing the outcomes of all the elections.
And it is very obvious that the -- okay. Thank you.
CHAIRMAN: Thank you, ma'am. Speaker 142, Kim Coley. Welcome to the Committee, ma'am. You have the floor for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MS. COLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you all for your time. Boy, I would not want to be sitting where you are sitting. This is a long day. I was trying to think of something clever, something humorous to say to kind of break up the monotony. But the truth is there is just nothing that funny about this. This isn't funny. This isn't a funny subject, so I have no funny thing to say.

I am not -- I don't have many credentials. I was never in the military, I am a stay at home mom. That is it. That is all I got. But what I got, I make up with passion and loyalty. I went into the library to check out a book for my high schooler. We won't even go into why I am checking out my high schooler's book -- and I had to show an ID because I didn't have my library card. And so I showed her my ID. And she -- and I put it back and she proceeds to tell me that I have a fine.

I said, "Would you go ahead and check on my son's account, as well? I might as well just pay for it all now." "I need to see your ID." So I had to pull it out a second time to pay for my library fine, which, by the way, I am all up to date now.
My heart aches as a mother for those that are inconvenienced for loss of birth certificates or going through a divorce or the painstaking things that people stealing IDs have caused the extra added burden of them finding an -- of them having to have a voter ID to vote. I get that. The problem is, integrity costs. And I am trying to raise my boys that this is a country -- I still cry when we play the Anthem. This is a country that you have the right to vote and you have the pride to vote.

And my son was very proud to get his driver's license recently with his ID -- his photo ID on it. And then two weeks later came his registration for voting in two years. Easy -- could have been a photo ID with that. My son is proud to display his driver's license, and he would be proud to display his voter ID and vote in the next election. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, ma'am. Speaker number 143 -- and the Chair will apologize, sir, if I mispronounce your name -- Mark Villee.

MR. VILLEE: Very good, very good.

CHAIRMAN: You have the floor, sir, for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MR. VILLEE: Thank you. Appreciate it. Appreciate the time that you have given us tonight, sticking around. My name is Mark Villee, and I reside in
Wake County.

Many of those against voter integrity tend to justify their views by denying the existence of voter fraud in North Carolina. I disagree. Because, you see, I have served as a poll observer for 20 years. Voter fraud does occur, and it disenfranchises legitimate votes.

I have observed numerous instances of voter fraud. In 2012 alone -- in 2012 alone, I personably witnessed several votes who voted more than once -- or voters who voted more than once, and I observed and reported to the Board of Elections a polling official who proceeding to instruct a voter how to use a letterheaded stationery to fraudulently manufacture the credentials needed to conduct a fraudulent one stop vote. Appalling. I couldn't believe it. Reported it, nothing was done.

Also, a speaker before me mentioned, “I observed many voters who needed to look at a piece of paper in order to state their address.” To me, that reeks of fraud. The people of North Carolina are fed up with election fraud. Legislators, you only have one chance to get this right. You must remove the fraud friendly loopholes in our election laws and get it -- and get a real photo voter ID this year, not 2016.

Also, because college IDs are very easily
manufactured, only state IDs with an address should be allowed. We must protect our system of voting from those who wish to corrupt it. IDs are needed to be a productive member of society [sic]. I urge you to pass a tough loophole free photo ID law. Thank you, very much.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, very much, sir.

Speaker 144, Rob Stevens. Welcome, sir. You have the floor for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MR. STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is Rob Stevens. I serve as field secretary for the North Carolina State Conference of the NAACP. Soon after early voting began in last fall in North Carolina, almost 900 voters aged 112 reportedly cast ballots. In fact, in 2008, almost 10,000 108-years-olds cast ballot. And just over 9,000 110-year-olds voted in 2010. Of course, we don't have this number of 110-year-olds voting in North Carolina. And this is evidence that folks have been using to explain fraud.

There is a law before 1993, you didn't have to provide your birthday. And the default date was 1900. And that is the reason for those. And this is an example of the anecdotal evidence that people have been using. Again, today, that Mr. Van Spakowski (phonetic) was here earlier, and Voter Integrity Project uses, and then they are later disputed. The other one is, of course, when
Voter Integrity Project made North Carolina a joke when they tried to get 30,000 voters purged from the polls who were not, in fact, dead.

This bill is not a compromise. It is still one of the most restrictive laws in the country, and you -- by not providing free ID to everyone. Speaker Tillis, himself, has now admitted that voter fraud is not the real reason behind the new poll tax. After misleading North Carolinians for four years, apparently, now that is not the reason that he is in favor of it, but instead a poll that says people are -- that based on the fears that he has created, this hysteria over the past four years in office.

And finally, to my white brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles who have committed so much of their lives over the past few years for voter ID, I understand your fears. I grew up in your communities as you did. As a child, I attended your churches. I am close friends with the children of your children. I know the deep seated fear that the politicians of this current leadership have played on you, what Republican Leader General Colin Powell has called a dark vein of intolerance. And the racial fear is these dishonest elected leaders have incited and helped rationalize a solution looking for a problem.
North Carolina saw the greatest increase in voter participation from 2004 to 2008. The new voters who came out in 2008 will change this country forever. This current attack on voting rights is just as much -- it is not about suppressing black and brown voters as the Confederate flag in the Civil War was not about slavery.

The last time I stood in this very room was eight years ago. Today I serve as the governor of the Youth and College -- Youth and Government program, as some of you know. We were not even imagining voter ID or voter suppression eight years ago. It was -- it was a year after George Bush had won by over 13 percent in North Carolina. And voter ID was not an important issue then. And it is not a real issue now.

We white, black, Latino, native Americans are more interested in expanding Democracy than restricting it. You will be judged by our generation as the one who, after 50 years, when people died for our right to vote, turned on that -- turned on that legacy. Justice will win; democracy will win. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir. Speaker 145, Lynn Edmonds. We welcome you. You have the floor for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MS. EDMONDS: Thank you. My name is Lynn Edmonds. And I would like to go on record in saying that
these are my words that I wrote, sitting in this room. It is original text, no group or organization wrote them for me. I don’t have a recent case from Buncombe County for you to consider.

I am here today to oppose voter suppression efforts. These efforts are known ALEC bills. ALEC is the American Legislative Exchange Council, and some of the General Assembly are members of this organization. They claim to be a nonprofit. However, they are a lobbying organization. Voter suppression legislation is one of many ALEC bills being pushed by conservative lawmakers across the country. The cry of voter fraud is fraudulent, itself.

I also want to comment that many progressive organizations and individuals who oppose voter suppression efforts learned of this hearing today from an e-mail sent by the Wake County Republican party. Up to 70 slots were already full when folks tried to sign up. Based on the large number of speakers in favor of this legislation, particularly at the beginning of this hearing, it appears that supporters were given prior notice of this hearing.

Many speakers here today have referred to specific fraud cases. The head of the Voter Integrity Project introduced the speakers here today collectively.
He was the first speaker, and knew who would be here to speak. It is important for the public listening to this hearing to know that we have primarily heard from one organization today, not a true public hearing -- the Voter Integrity Project. When will the NAACP and other groups, such as the Voter Protection Project, be given their public hearing? We are very -- we anxiously await your invitation. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: Speaker 146, Tayon Dancy.

You have the floor for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MS. DANCY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am Tayon Dancy, and I stand before you today, having been here since 3:30 -- but I stand before you today after waiting this long because those before me waited this long as well to get us the right to vote.

I am Tayon Dancy, a Wake County resident, speaking on behalf of my grandmother, who is 96 years old, of Rocky Mount, North Carolina. And all those that came before me to fight for the right to vote. Many of you have spouted names of ---

CHAIRMAN: (Interposing) Ms. Dancy, you are not doing anything wrong. The Chair is going to ask that the -- that we have order in the room. No, no. ma'am, I was not trying to blame anyone. The Chair just
I couldn't hear. If the Sergeant at Arms will reset the clock. Would you please re-begin your remarks.

MS. DANCY: Yes, sir. I will.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

MS. DANCY: I am Tayon Dancy, a Wake County resident, speaking on behalf of my grandmother, who is 96 years old, of Rocky Mount, North Carolina, and all those that came before me to fight for the right to vote. Many of you have spouted names of people you researched. My example is someone that I know.

My grandmother, Dorothy, has voted since she was allowed to in this country. Just the other day, she told me about her first time voting and how she felt a sense of pride and belonging to this nation. In the Constitution, 1870, the 15th Amendment became law and made voting available to all men over the age of 21. And they specifically stated that people cannot be barred to vote on account of their race.

In 1920, the 19th amendment allowed women to vote in the fall election, including the presidential election. Congress passed the Voting Rights act of 1965, making it easier for Southern Blacks to register to vote (incomprehensible) poll taxes and other such requirements that were used to restrict the black vote were made illegal. The 26th Amendment, ratified in 1971, allowed
all Americans over the age of 18 to vote.

My grandmother takes pride in her right to vote, has seen many that she voted for win the offices they sought over the years. Grandma Dorothy does not have a photo ID today. And her original birth certificate is also not on record. House Bill 589 would indeed prevent her from voting in her latter years, something she has held dear to her and something she has taught me and so many others may no longer be an option for her.

I urge you to uphold the Constitution of this great nation. I urge you to vote against House Bill 589, and instead, fix or automate the checks and balances in the process. For example, do a better job of cross checking death certificates to the register list. This is the era of technology. We can do this, folks.

Why make voting difficult for Grandma Dorothy? She is not a fraud. She is still alive, she is in good health, and she is in her right mind. Keep Grandma Dorothy voting without limitations, and don't allow anything to stop her except the earthly death that we all must face some day. Thank you for your time.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you, ma'am. Speaker 149, Bernard Holliday. Welcome, sir. You have the floor for a time not to exceed three minutes.
MR. HOLLIDAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To members of the State legislature, ladies and gentlemen, my comments are brief, focused on human rights, electoral reform in the State of North Carolina. In the year of our Lord, 2008, April 18th, Bernard Angely (phonetic) Holliday appeared in Granville County, Creedmoor, my native county, to vote. I gave my name, address, and was told by the clerk, "Mr. Holliday, there is no ballot for you. And, in fact, Mr. Holliday, if you want to vote, you have to re-register as a new voter." "Show me the form, Clerk."

I filled the form out, was cleared. They gave me a ballot. I voted. I came home and wrote a petition to the State Board of Elections, hand delivered 24 miles from my home. The next day, I received the communication for chief counsel of the State Board of Elections. I quote, "The GE code which assigns all North Carolina voters their voting districts in a statewide voter registration database, capital S-E-I-M-S kicked you out of the system. You had no precinct listed. There was nothing wrong with what was done." To the contrary, a human hand or hands were involved in this incident.

Granville County, like other 39 counties on the Voting Rights Act, Supreme Court of this nation will be rendering a decision come June of this year. My
recommendations are as follows: for election reform, the legislation -- legislature needs not reduce early voting days in the election. The database now being used should be revised. The North Carolina State Legislature should have an election commission, and the North Carolina State Board of Elections should train its workers more efficiently, and fund the process. And the legislature should pass a bill requiring quarterly reporting to the citizens of this state. Thank you for your time.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks you for your time, sir. Speaker 149, John Tulles. Sir, you have the floor for a time not to exceed three minutes.

MR. TULLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, representatives. My name is John Tulles. I am the vice chairman of the New Hanover County GOP. And I am here in support of the photo ID. I have heard everything -- I am the one you have been looking for. I am the last one. I came up here very, very passionate trying to speak. I tried to get on the website earlier and -- a couple of days ago. And they were just -- they were full. So I got up here and, hey, we have a few open slots. I got on. So here I am.

I have heard everything I can possibly imagine here in the past couple of hours for and against, for and against, back and forth. I can tell you one thing now,
as the vice chairman in charge of precinct operations
with 225 poll observers, with 278 precinct workers, that
fraud exists. It is absolutely overwhelming. I couldn't
believe it. And it all started off very, very simple for
me.

When we had a little project, we had a bunch
of workers get together, go out and do a little
canvassing in the neighborhood. And then one of the
workers found, "Hey, there is eight people registered at
this address, and this is an abandoned house." Oh.
"Across the street there is a vacant lot. There is six
people registered there."

So this ballooned into 2,800 people within our
county. These numbers went up to Voter Integrity, went
to John Locke, went to the Heritage Foundation.
Everybody got this. I sent all this -- and from then on,
it was, you know, Katie bar the door, because here we
come, you know. We know what you are doing. We know how
you are doing it. The voter fraud was rampant --
absolutely rampant.

Election day, you come up to the polls and
there is five people already voted in that -- you know,
it is insane, absolutely insane. What I think you do --
you need to do here is get a bill that has some teeth in
it. I mean, you really got to have some teeth in it. No
wishy-washy stuff, you know. They have got to have a
good representation for the people. We need to get the
poll observers, and we need to have election officials
trained. That was really important. I watched poll
officials -- one of them actually quit after I confronted
him. He said, "I quit." He was a judge. He said, "I
can't do this anymore," because he was so bad [sic]. And
just everything you heard of before, it is just terrible.

Okay. So basically, what it all is -- and the
speaker gave me extra permission to recap the other 148
people -- no, just kidding. But you do got -- do get
some teeth into this thing, you know. Help us out. All
right. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir. Ladies and
gentlemen, the Chair would like to express his sincere
thanks to all who took time to speak tonight. The Chair
also expresses his appreciation to the members who are
here and have heard what has been said. I express my
appreciation to our staff who worked so hard, to our
Sergeant at Arms and our General Assembly police. And
with that, we stand adjourned.

(THE PROCEEDINGS WERE CLOSED AT 8:20 P.M.)
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF NASH

CERTIFICATE


I DO FURTHER CERTIFY THAT I AM NOT COUNSEL FOR OR IN THE EMPLOYMENT OF ANY OF THE PARTIES TO THIS ACTION, NOR AM I INTERESTED IN THE RESULTS OF THIS ACTION.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND THIS 27TH DAY OF APRIL, 2013.

TERRENCE X. McGOVERN
NOTARY PUBLIC FOR THE
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
NOTARY NUMBER 19933480053