



Immigrant Development Center  
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**STATEMENT OF FOWZIA ADDE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRANT  
DEVELOPMENT CENTER  
OPPOSING HOUSE BILL 1431  
MARCH 13, 2023**

Committee Chair and members of committee my name is Fowzia Adde, and I am the Executive Director of Immigrant Development Center. I am sending my testimony in opposition to the proposed House Bill 1431.

As a person committed to ensuring accessible and fair elections, I am firmly opposed to the proposed HB 1431. The bill imposes a significant burden on eligible voters who may lack a driver's license or other acceptable form of citizenship-verifying identification.

This amendment mandates that voters who present a noncitizen identification card or operator's license and assert valid citizenship must set aside their ballot in a sealed envelope and present acceptable proof of citizenship to a polling place election board member or an employee of the office of the election official prior to the meeting of the canvassing board. This requirement creates additional obstacles for eligible voters, especially those who may not have easy access to documents proving their citizenship.

The amendment to HB 1431 unfairly targets certain groups of eligible voters, including those with low incomes, senior citizens, disabilities as well as refugees who have become citizens (new Americans) who may have difficulty obtaining the required documentation to prove their citizenship. This bill would mainly impact new American and immigrant voters, because it is focused on those noncitizen ID cards. Furthermore, this requirement may discourage eligible voters from participating in elections, resulting in a lower voter turnout and a less representative democracy. There are over 15,000 of these "permanent resident" ID cards active.

HB 1431 creates additional logistical difficulties for election officials, who must set aside these ballots and verify proof of citizenship prior to the meeting of the canvassing board. This procedure may result in longer wait times at polling locations, creating additional obstacles for voters.

The proposed HB 1431 imposes unwarranted restrictions on eligible voters, obstructing their participation in the electoral process. As a result, I urge legislators to **vote against** this bill and instead concentrate on efforts to expand voting access for all eligible citizens.