

House Bill 351 Public Comments

Name	City	Comments
	<blank>	Thank you. It's about time.
	<blank>	I'm strongly in support of House Bill 351. It is vitally important to our democratic system that we have open & fair elections of our public officials. Based on previous voter fraud that has been uncovered involving Acorn and others in previous elections, we need to mandate through this Bill that everyone who votes in the future provide a photo ID before voting. Thank you
	Concord	We are not deceived. The right to vote should not be restricted no matter how you spin the title of the bill. I will not vote for anyone in support of this bill and will sign any petition to remove from office anyone who votes for taking away yet another one of our rights.
A concerned constituent	Asheville	<p>I can't believe, with all the pressing concerns facing our state's economy, our own elected officials are wasting precious time with such bills. Requiring state issued ID's during elections does NOTHING to create or sustain jobs in North Carolina. And implying that this bill "restores confidence in government" by cracking down on the alleged crisis of voter fraud is an insult to constituents' intelligence. This is nothing more than a power-grab. A desperate attempt by Republicans for political self-preservation. By making it more difficult for minorities, college students, the poor, and first-time voters (demographics most likely to not hold state-issue ID's), Republicans conspire to shift election results in 2012 in their favor.</p> <p>I'm a 30 year old public employee in Buncombe County, a constituent (who thankfully holds a valid North Carolina ID), and I'm very sad and disappointed that this insulting issue is clogging the urgent progress in our state's government.</p>
Ms. Susan Albee	Tryon	Do Not pass this bill! It is an unnecessary expense and so unfair to the old and less fortunate.
Ms. Sarah Allen	Clayton	I contacted my Senators and Representatives following the 2008 election as it greatly bothered me that I was not asked for identification to vote. The poll volunteer explained that they were not allowed to ask for IDs and that they just took people's word that they were who they were. Essentially anyone who knew my name and address (i.e. from stealing mail) could vote for me if they wanted to. It is also not necessary to show proof of US citizenship, which I found greatly disturbing. I was very concerned that voter fraud could result from people showing up and saying they were someone they were not. I lived in Germany for 6 years and there it is required that all voters show up with photo identification and a letter informing them of their eligibility to vote. I think the US should have similar policies, particularly given the problems we have had with voting in the past.
Mrs. Kathleen Andrews	Hillsborough	One of the best ways to remove voter fraud from elections is to have each person present identification to vote. We carry id to drive, to enter the hospital, to cash a check, to carry a gun, to attend school, and on it goes. Why not to vote?
Mr. Joseph Back	Hope Mills	According to Mr. Don Wright, Chief Counsel for the NC Board of Elections, over 26,000 people were allowed to vote in the 2008 general elections without providing a photo ID or SSN. Under the provisions of the NVRA and the HAVA the word ID has been changed to include, utility bill, bank statement, govt check...ect. The irony of this is that one cannot obtain any of these allowable documents without first providing photo ID or SSN. What bank in NC allows an individual to cash

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		checks without ID? What NC utility company begins residential service without performing a credit check? In NC, you need a photo ID to obtain food assistance or enter into the WIC program. In NC, you need a photo ID to purchase certain types of over the counter cold medication or rent a carpet cleaner. I urge the NC House and Senate to pass House Bill 351 and join the 26 other states that have passed legislation to counter the effects NVRA and HAVA, to limit voter fraud/abuse and to insure integrity in our electoral system.
charles barefoot	Linden	I think we are all interested in Restoring Confidence in Government. AND SOMEBODY NEEDS TO REMIND ALL THOSE LIBERAL "TAX AND SPEND" DEMOCRATS _T H A T_ 2012 IS A COMING AND IF THEY CONTINUE TO VOTE THAT WAY, PAY DAY WILL....COME IN NOV. 2012 WHEN WE VOTE THE REST OF THEM OUT LIKE WE DID LAST ELECTION...THEY ARE NOT VOTING THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE AND WE ARE PAYING ATTENTION.. THEY CONTINUE TO VOTE AGAINST OUR WILL AND WITH THE "OBAMA" IDIOT. EACH VOTE FOR HIS AGENDA WILL BE ANOTHER MARK ON OUR LIST OF REASONS TO "OUT" THEM IN THE NEXT ELECTION. SOMEBODY NEEDS TO REMIND THEM OF THIS OR BETTER YET JUST LET THEM GO AHEAD AND COMMIT POLITICAL SUICIDE.. THATS FINE WITH ME.....
Ms. Christine Barnes	Cary	This bill is a transparent attempt at age and race discrimination against North Carolina voters. You should be spending your time figuring out how to close corporate tax loopholes so that we can get some revenue going. Instead, you're fiddling around removing rights for women, people of color, and older North Carolinians.
Patricia Batleman	Winnabow	As a member of the Leland Town Council, I have talked to many constituents who are appalled that sitting elected officials in our county and others are allowed to participate on Federal and State government boards whose purpose is to promote expenditures and projects for which their (and their families') personal property stands to gain monetarily. I have checked with the School of Government to ascertain whether these officials must abide by Ethics codes, and have been astounded to learn that in many cases, while the appearance of impropriety is evident, there can be no public recourse. Changing this flaw is important to restoring confidence in government. Thank you.
Dr. Harvey Bauman	Blowing Rock	It is critical that we have voter ID to stop the abuses of fraudulent voting. There are too many folks in our state who should not be here and are not legally here, who have fake ID's issued by various organizations. This problem undermines the security of our voting system.
Mrs. Sheila Beaudry	Pittsboro	<p>I find it really funny that this bill is called "Restore Confidence in Government" when it does just the opposite. It makes it difficult for people to vote in person and makes it much easier to vote by mail. It is much more likely that any shenanigans go on by mail rather than by the person appearing in person. This is requiring taxpayer money to pay to fix a basically non-existent problem at a time when our state is really hurting for money. Funds are being cut to programs that save people lives, feeds and teaches children, and provides protection for our citizens. Instead it is being redirected to make it more difficult for the poor, the elderly and young college students to vote. And guess what, most of those citizens are more likely to vote Democratic, while those who vote by mail can do it easier and it must just be a coincidence that they tend to vote Republican.</p> <p>If you insist upon passing this superfluous bill, it is underfunded and will create hardships in the counties that are already having to cut funding to education and many necessary programs. This will hurt our citizens, especially the children. In addition, it is impossible to adequately prepare and educate citizens and get photo IDs for all that need them in time for the 2012 election. If you insist that photo IDs be required then at least wait until our state can afford to spend this much money to keep 30 people from improperly voting. Many more valid voters than that will be prevented from voting if implemented as written (but perhaps that is the real purpose of the bill). This does not restore my confidence in government but makes me more cynical at this politically partisan bill.</p>

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Ms. Carril Benhoff	Raleigh	<p>We voters are very concerned that the Voter ID provision be included in the bill! We are watching this daily. KEEP THE VOTER ID PROVISION IN THE BILL!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Thank you, Carril Benhoff</p>
Mr. Seth Bernanke	Charlotte	<p>This is a ridiculous waste of money to solve a problem that does not exist. It will create a large and expensive new bureaucracy with the result of discouraging poor and elderly voters from taking the multiple extra steps needed to comply. I also understand that it will make it easier to get an absentee ballot, which is contrary to the bill's stated intentions. Bad bill! Get rid of it!</p>
Emily Bernstein	Asheville	<p>I am against House Bill 351 and urge representatives to vote no. Election fraud is not a serious issue. It is clear that the real goal of this bill is to disenfranchise the poor, students, people of color, and the elderly as well as to lower overall voter turnout. It is unrealistic to expect citizens to get a new ID card each time they move. This is a costly and undemocratic measure to fix a non-existent problem.</p> <p>It is no coincidence that this bill is being introduced at the same time as similar bills are being introduced around the country. This national effort to thwart democracy will ultimately harm the state of North Carolina.</p> <p>Please vote against this bill.</p> <p>Thank you, Emily Bernstein</p>
Mr. Drew Betz	Raleigh	<p>“It is wrong—deadly wrong—to deny any of your fellow Americans the right to vote in this country. There is no issue of States' rights or National rights. There is only the struggle for human rights.”</p> <p>Lyndon B. Johnson upon signing the Voting Rights Act of 1965 --</p> <p>The words from President Johnson on this landmark occasion outlined America’s dedication to the guarantee that every American will have the right to vote, and that no government, whether local, state, or federal would interfere with this inalienable right.</p> <p>If one citizen is denied the right to cast a ballot, or worse, discouraged from doing so, we as a society have failed to uphold the core values of a true democracy.</p> <p>House Bill 351 will create a barrier to vote for qualified Americans, and North Carolinians. I predict that this barrier will be seen in the following flavors:</p> <p>1) Citizens who do not possess valid photo identification.</p> <p>Citizens who reside in North Carolina, but do not possess a valid photo ID whether elderly, young, or perhaps just irresponsible will be outright denied the right to vote at their voting place. Although many will obtain a NC Voter ID Card, others will simply give up, and fail to cast their ballot.</p> <p>2) Citizens who do not hold a valid NC Drivers License (NCDL).</p> <p>Individuals who have had his or her license revoked, or perhaps recently misplaced may feel that they are ineligible to</p>

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		<p>vote since they do not possess valid photo identification. This false perception will cause the potential voter to not place a ballot.</p> <p>3) Citizens who believe they will need to pay for ID.</p> <p>The primary photo identification device in North Carolina is a valid NCDL. Many who do not possess such an ID will acknowledge the cost of acquiring either a driver's license, or personal identification card, and choose to not vote due to this monetary barrier.</p> <p>4) Citizens who are discouraged due to increased administration.</p> <p>With this additional barrier to vote, citizens will feel discouraged, and ultimately fail to cast their ballot. Whether you lost your ID, don't have one, or don't want one, this increased administration will cause voters to voluntarily omit their vote.</p> <p>--</p> <p>I fully recognize the effort being made by the Assembly to ensure all necessary caveats are addressed, however these workarounds, such as a free voter identification card will not put a guarantee that all voters without ID will obtain one; it just isn't that simple. Some North Carolinians will stop voting.</p> <p>With every additional layer of administration, we will lose a portion of our voting public. The drawbacks to this bill far outweigh the benefits, and we must all come together to ensure that we do not deny, nor discourage our fellow Americans from voting.</p> <p>This is not a question of left or right, instead we find ourselves front and center in the battle to preserve the freedom to vote in our state. I encourage you to stand up against this Bill, and measure the opportunity cost of such a landmark decision. Thank you for your time, and understanding.</p> <p>Best, Drew</p>
Mr. James Bispo	Belhaven	<p>Photo IDs</p> <p>It's interesting to listen to the Dems' grossly biased, pitifully uninformed, or purposely misleading rhetoric in the North Carolina Legislature against requiring every individual to show a photo ID in order to vote.</p> <p>This issue was the subject of a survey by the Center for Democracy and Election Management of the American University and a report published January 9, 2008. Three states were surveyed: Mississippi, Maryland, and Indiana. To see the entire report, go to http://www1.american.edu/ia/cdem/pdfs/VoterIDFinalReport1-9-08.pdf. In particular take a look at Table 17 on page 31 of the report to see the reasons people gave for supporting or opposing an ID as a requirement to vote. You will see that 52.8% cited that requiring a photo ID would prevent illegal voting. Some 6.2% of the respondents who opposed requiring IDs indicated that lack of voter IDs was not the problem and 5.5% didn't like the idea because IDs can be forged.</p>

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The argument against requiring photo IDs that is heard most often in the study, as well as in North Carolina is, "So what is the problem that this is going to solve?? Surely it can't be to control voting fraud." The argument is buttressed by the "fact" that there has been virtually no voting fraud exposed in North Carolina. That's probably true. Virtually no fraud has been exposed - exposed being the operative word. There are a lot of folks who would suggest that failure to expose fraud does not - by any stretch of the imagination - mean that there has been none. There was no misuse of campaign funds and perquisites like taking free airplane trips or buying into big time beachfront subdivisions at a large discount or bribing politicians into shared governance of the state legislature or a lot of other things until those abuses were exposed. The point is that those against requiring photo IDs may be vociferous in their objections, but they are a long way from being a majority. And, if you look at North Carolina's track record of political shenanigans, the fact that not much voting fraud has been exposed is not terribly comforting.

I am not crying "wolf" but are we forever bound to wait for something unpleasant to happen before we do anything to prevent it?? I would guess that there are quite a few folks in Ft. Hood and Tucson who would feel a whole lot better right now if we had been somewhat more proactive about dealing with Nadal Malik Hasan and Jerod Laughner. Admittedly, what they did was worse than voter fraud (in the short term - at least), but why wait for it to happen and have to live with the consequences if it is something that can fairly easily be prospectively prevented?? There are a lot of folks who find fault with the TSA and their approach to life. First, the inept "shoe bomber" and suddenly we are taking off our shoes before we are allowed to board an airplane. Then, the seemingly equally inept "underwear bomber" and suddenly the TSA is "patting us down" (or is it "feeling us up??") before we are allowed to board an aircraft. Just because the feds, as exemplified by the TSA, always seem to be behind the power curve, no matter what Janet Napolitano says, is that any reason for North Carolina to emulate them?? Face it, photo IDs are an inexpensive and fairly straight forward way to help prevent voting fraud.

It was somewhat disconcerting to read in the Washington Daily News (WDN) back in March of 2010 that according to a (then) recently completed poll that half of the state's voters didn't know which party was in charge of the NC General Assembly. (For the record, it was, and has for a long time been, the Dems.) If the poll was correct, that surely sounds like a "voting issue" - if not a result of fraud. It almost seems as though all those who are resisting the requirement for a picture ID believe that things should be kept that way so it will be easy for them to round up "their" voters, put them on a bus to the polls and have them vote as they are instructed. Requiring photo IDs could make that process more cumbersome; not so much for individuals who want to vote, but for those who want to control a lot of votes.

That is really scary. Those are the folks who keep electing Democrats just because they have always voted that way - likely aided and abetted by the likes of the WDN, and maybe the promise of a package of cigarettes - or lunch - or something. Although it sounds somewhat like an oxymoron, many of those folks are likely the same folks who "voted for change we can believe in" in the last Presidential election. The change we got was more of the same from the deeply entrenched NC Dems. It would seem that the NC voters voted for real change in last November's mid-term election. - and this time they will likely get it. And now a lot of other folks are trying to keep that from happening with their protestations about the proposed requirement for photo IDs.

So what can the folks who care about such a situation existing in NC, do to rectify it?? Of course the status quo is probably a "good thing" as far as the Progressives are concerned. They seem to know where to go to round up votes when a particular race begins to get too close for comfort (which means when a Dem is in danger of losing). Take a bus down to the nearest soup kitchen or shelter and fill it up with folks who are willing to vote as directed for a pack of cigarettes or some other "necessity" of life. The issue is what can (or should) we do about ensuring that we have an

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		<p>electorate that thinks about their vote, and what they are voting for, before they actually vote. For those who believe the situation needs attention, it would seem that there are only three viable alternatives:</p> <p>First. Try to ensure that our voters are at least somewhat conversant with the issues by requiring a current events civics test before allowing them to cast their ballot - not likely to fly - but not necessarily a bad idea You would think that folks should know which party got us into this cycle of unwarranted deficits, wasted taxpayer money and seemingly unending tax increases. On the other hand those kinds of things likely are only important to folks who actually pay taxes. We make people who come here from other countries take and pass, a civics test on their way to citizenship (and the concomitant right to vote), so why shouldn't Americans who would like to vote be as well versed in American Civics as the immigrants??</p> <p>Second. A "truth squad" that somehow can separate the "truth" from the political rhetoric and then get the voters to listen to the facts - which may or may not be effective (questionable at best); or,</p> <p>Third. Continue to allow the Harvard educated elite and the mainstream media to tell us which issues to support and how to vote on them. (In North Carolina, it may be the Duke elite.) We have to be told explicitly because you can seldom tell based on the title of a proposition we are asked to support - or not support. But then maybe the Harvard elite aren't quite as erudite as they would have us believe. (The jury is still out on the Duke elite.) Take, for example, Mrs. Schumer's boy Charlie. He, in his always supercilious way, the other day gave us a civics lesson about the composition of Government. He said the U.S. government has three branches (so far, so good.). But then he named them: The House of Representatives, the Senate, and the Executive Branch (not so good - especially for a Harvard graduate). Another slight for Judge John Roberts and his merry band of jurists.</p> <p>Of course we will hear that we are disenfranchising people's right to vote by requiring a picture ID before we allow them to vote. We are told that requirement would impose a real "hardship" on them. Give me a break. Just try cashing a check in a branch of your bank in which you are not known. If you can't produce a picture ID, you are very likely out of luck - unless you pursue the matter with the Branch Manager - and then it's only a "maybe". Go to the doctor's office and register and, guess what - you need to produce a photo ID in addition to your insurance card. Try to "get served" in a bar and you may have to produce a picture ID (which can sometimes be a "feel good" event for some folks. Hmmm...) Try to buy alcoholic beverages or tobacco in a mini-mart (or anywhere else for that matter) and you may well have to show a picture ID. Get stopped for a traffic infraction and fail to produce a driver's license (picture and all) and see what happens. For \$10 a state issued picture ID can be obtained at the local drivers license office. But apparently to avoid even the appearance of a Poll Tax, we now propose to provide photo IDs for free. So what's the big deal with requiring a picture ID in order to be allowed to vote?? Don't tell me. It's going to disenfranchise a lot of folks who apparently don't care enough about voting to bother to register or to get themselves a photo ID. So what must we do?? We must make it so easy for these folks to vote that we open the door for a lot of potential fraud. Maybe we should let them "phone in" their vote.</p> <p>Instead, what we really need to do is to make voting more difficult, rather than easier. No more of this walk in, register, and vote. Don't tell me voting is a right. It is a privilege - and it's time we started treating it like one.</p>
Mr. Bill Brandhorst	Monroe	I LOVE this bill and hope it becomes law.

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Mrs. Patty Braswell-Isler	Durham	I was appalled when I saw the introduction of this bill. I think that it is a pernicious proposal meant to deny thousands of people their constitutional right to vote. To present a proposal under the guise of having a voter fraud issue is dishonest. What is the real reason for such a proposal? The voting public is not foolish enough to believe that there is not a hidden agenda for it. Everyone needs to be able to exercise their right to vote without rules and restrictions. It needs to be stopped at all costs.
Mr. Leo Briere	Durham	If BOB HALL opposes the bill, it's a bad bill. Yet there's more: hearing those in favor of the bill spouting MISINFORMATION is DISHONORABLE. Voting for this bill will stain any representative's record.
Mr. Robert Brinson	Garner	The Restoring Confidence in Government bill does just that, restore confidence in government. If we do not have faith in our election process then what hope do I have that my government officials are representatives of the people and not a tool of special interest groups. The only way to have a modicum of faith in the election process is to ensure that the election process is as secure as possible. Requiring that voters present a photo ID authorized by the state of North Carolina is the single most important thing that can be done to ensure that the vote represents the will of the people. If one thinks this through, it becomes obvious that we already follow this process in our daily lives. If I want to board a plane, I must present valid photo ID; if I want to cash a check, I must present valid photo ID; if I want to complete a credit card transaction at a retail store, I must present a valid photo ID; if I want to buy alcoholic beverages, I must present a valid photo ID. The list of activities requiring a valid photo ID goes on and on. Given the ramifications of the outcome of the election process, requiring the presentation of a photo ID is the least that we can do. Thank you.
Mrs. Patricia Bryan	Southern Pines	Despite the rantings and ravings against requiring a photo id to vote, I find nothing wrong with it. I would like to see it be federal law, might have a little more confidence in the voting process, though not in voters thought processes. One thing I do think is necessary is to provide a means for all voters who do not have driver licenses or other types of required photo identification to get a certifiable photo id for free....which may mean spending some money to do.
Mr. Stephen Bryan	Durham	I disagree with the measure in HB 351 requiring voters to show valid ID before voting. This will certainly lead to a perception among historically disenfranchised groups, especially, that the State of NC is presenting hurdles to voting. This will only lessen turnout at our polls.
Ms. Jane Bumgardner	Winston-Salem	This bill is a big waste of time and money, and suggest a problem that does not exist. This is not restoring my confidence in government, spending time and money on this deminishes my confidence in the legislature. I would suggest you all spend time reforming the tax system and close all the tax exemptions and loop holes. I must admit that I am ashamed of the other bills/proposals that will hurt the future of NC. Wake up and do what's right for the regular people of this state and stop favoring the wealthy. This bill is really about keeping some people from voting.
Ms. Jean Bystry	Leland	I support this bill and thank you for all your work!
Mrs. Norma Cappelletti	Pinehurst	With so many reports of fraud in the elective process one way to correct the problem is to require photo I.D.----We have to show photo I'D when boarding a plane or cashing a check--isn't voting just as important and shouldn't we do everything to protect the privilege of voting ? We want you to do your part in protecting this privilege. Please support House Bill 351.
Mr. RL Clark	Asheville	As a Madison County(Marshall)small Business Owner-Operator I have seen long lines of out of state hispanics in past years lined up at the Madison county DMV office seeking questionable N C Driver's license. Under the Motor voter Act

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		<p>when they get a new driver's license they must be offered the opportunity to register to vote. same way when applying for medicaid, etc. there has and continues to be a problem with illegals voting in N C elections. A DMV employee in Madison county was arrested for illegal activities while employed and her attorney was the Honorable Larry Leake, chairman of the S B O E! This is a long story i'm very familiar with. I intend to call the committee chair for a discussion as I'm unable to testify in person before the committee.</p> <p>R L Clark N C State Senator 1995-1998</p>
Lee Comtois	Carolina Beach	<p>With the whole world going crazy can we at least agree upon knowing that someone is legally able to vote in an election (and for that matter run for one!!!). I can come up with a thousand reasons why but please let common sense and reason prevail. I was a Marine Corps recruiter for 3 years, no one got in with out the proper ID and paperwork, don't tell me it's that hard!!!</p>
Mr. Walter Cooper	Rocky Mount	<p>I believe strongly that in this day of "identity theft", it is irresponsible to not require a picture id to vote. My son had to have id to enroll in community college. Both sons have had various other governmental bodies require picture id to prevent fraud. Yet they can vote by simply giving their names. I believe this is a great requirement. It also sends a message to the electorate that future elections will be just.</p>
chris costiuc	fuquay varina	<p>In order to ensure faith in our state voting system, we must atleast have these minimum requirements. It would not be fair to us honest voters to allow others the possibility of corruption.</p>
William Cotton	Durham	<p>I feel that all efforts to restore public confidence in the legislator should be priority. In addition, I feel that now is not the time for legislators to be concerned with adding a \$1 million walkway to protect people as they walk from one building to another in these tough economic times.</p>
Mr. david crigler	belews creek	<p>small requirement to stop voter fraud</p>
Mr. David Crook	Charlotte	<p>Listen to the people, read & understand the bills before you vote on them. Ask your self "what would my constituents want" not "which special interest group will this benefit and which way do I vote to keep my job for another term". Many if not most of us do not believe that our government has our best interest at heart.</p>
Mrs. Patricia Cross	Durham	<p>I think voters should be required to show a valid ID prior to be allowed to vote. That would eliminate people using other people's names and address, deceased people's names and address that have not been taken off the voter registration file or people who have moved and have not been taken off the voter registration file. It is our right to vote, but we also have the right to require proper ID to make sure that the person voting is the person they claim to be and are legal occupants of the State of North Carolina and the county they live in. Thanks.</p>
Mrs. Lydia Daniel	Morganton	<p>I believe requiring a photo id to vote is a common sense way to boost the integrity of our voting process. We must show id to rent a movie, withdraw money from our bank, register a car, use a credit/debit card...all to help protect the individual from fraud. Shouldn't the voting process be included?</p>
Carolyn Davis	Wake Forest	<p>I think North Carolina SHOULD have voter ID. It is too easy for someone to vote twice or vote in another precinct if they know that person is not going to vote or they have moved from the area. All you need to know is the full name and address. People moving into our area are surprised that we do not require any type of ID. How do you know that the person voting is a citizen.</p>

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		<p>If a photo ID would be a problem for the poor or edlerly, why not offer free ID for those people. My Mom had a photo ID because she needed one when she conducted other types of business (and she was poor).</p> <p>If private businesses can require photo ID, why can't one be required for voting.</p>
Jerry Dawson	Clayton	<p>I cannot believe in this day and age that people are so much up in arms about this. In a world fraught with fraud, illegal aliens and the fear of terrorism, why are we not checking IDs when it comes to the very foundation of our democracy? I continue to be shocked each time I vote that they do not ask to see any identification. Any person can walk in and claim to be me and cast their vote for whomever they like. Talk about a loophole, this is one of the biggest loopholes I've ever seen. This is 2011 people, let's get with the times, get the IDs and get on with the business of North Carolina.</p>
Mrs. Virginia Donahue	Pinehurst	<p>We are all in favor of requiring a photo ID for voting. Who, but the very sleazy politicians who have caused so much damage to government budgets in an effort to buy votes, could be against such an elementary step in the voting process? We get asked for our Social Security number in more ways than are appropriate, yet our elected officials have kept this simple and obvious protection away from the voters??? Let's see if this government deserves our confidence and pass this thing promptly.</p>
Ms. Cindy Dunne	Walnut Cove	<p>First, I find the name of the bill ironic considering that confidence in anything, let alone the government, can be restored by perpetuating untruths.</p> <p>Second, in this year of such deficits, when good programs which have already been proven to help the constituents you were elected to serve are being cut or gutted, you want to spend more money to institute ANOTHER new program that will add to the bloated bureaucracy that IS government, and cost the taxpayer once for its implementation, then, again, when they are REQUIRED to purchase a state generated ID. You must think we're all morons!</p> <p>Third, the incidence of voter fraud at the ballot box is so miniscule that it is not worth the amount of money that will be spent to stop it. In fact, if this bill is enacted, it will make it easier for those who use absentee ballots to commit fraud. So, you're saying taxpayers should spend money to correct a practically nonexistent problem, while making it easier for fraud to be committed. Hmmmm. Doesn't make sense to me, but then my IQ is only 142.</p> <p>Fourth, for those who already have a difficult time getting to polling places - the disabled, elderly, poor, etc. - this will just set-up another roadblock in their path. Is the vote only for those who can afford it? Is this the American way?</p> <p>Shame on you! Trying to push something like this through the House while people are out of work, trying to save their homes, scrimping and tightening their belts, and when \$10 does mean a whole lot to thousands of constituents who will not forget who caused them not to be able to pay their utility bill because they had to go to a government office to get a new ID. Shame.</p>
Mrs. eva eliel	chapel hill	<p>I love the title of the bill: "An act to restore confidence in government". It does the exact opposite. It boggles the mind that a normal grown person would dream up such pages-long prose and really mean it. It would be funny if it weren't a serious matter that can wreak much harm.</p>
Mr. richard farrow	new bern	<p>show an ID when you vote. I can not check into a motel with out a photo ID It needs to be done now</p>

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Victoria Farrow	New Bern	<p>this is a must.....I have to show proof when I'm making purchases why not when its voting for people in government that will be working for us not against us.....like it has been lately some people can't even speak English, but are told who to vote for...give me a break.....what happened as the last election, has ruined this country...</p>
David Felton	Durham	<p>Dear Legislators,</p> <p>Having read the proposed House Bill 351, I wish to register my strongest OPPOSITION to the implementation of any new law requiring any voter ID. Please DO NOT vote for this unnecessary new legislation.</p> <p>So many people I know are already apathetic about voting, or even being registered to vote for that matter, that adding another layer of bureaucracy to the process is sure to push more citizens even further away from even considering voting. We need to be encouraging people to vote!!</p> <p>Where is there any proof of serious voting fraud in NC? I have read many of the comments left by others and there seems to be great worry about 'illegals' voting. At best this seems silly, and at worst it seems racist and xenophobic. Those who take the time to register and to vote are our best citizens, and we should not be spending precious funds to throw up further hindrances to those already registered and to those wondering whether or not they should bother to register and vote in the future.</p> <p>On his website Rep. David Lewis says he is "fighting to end wasteful spending". Well, with all due respect to Mr. Lewis, sponsoring new laws which create new bureaucracy and require NC to spend more money is a funny way to achieve this goal. I encourage all those who oppose this bill to go to Mr. Lewis' website and vote NO on his poll about whether there should be ID required to vote.</p> <p>To ALL state representatives, PLEASE VOTE NO on House Bill 351, and spend the money on something else such as education or infrastructure, NOT on the creation of unnecessary new laws and the implementation of unnecessary new bureaucracy and the unnecessary allocation of millions of dollars to fix a system that IS NOT broken.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to the comments of your constituents. As a registered voter I am paying attention to this issue very closely.</p> <p>Sincerely, David E. Felton</p>
Mr. Lars Fowler		<p>The process of identifying oneself is very well established in American society. To check out a library book, you need a card that identifies you as being you. To function on a college campus, you need an identification card. The only reason someone would not want to identify himself or herself before voting is, basically, to hide one's identity. This could be for several reasons, but the most important ones are the following: 1) that person is an illegal alien, 2) the person wants to vote in multiple precincts and 3) the person wants to vote in the place of a deceased voter. The process of identifying oneself would not slow down the voting process. When I voted on November 2, 2010, the voting lines were very short. Early Voting is a prime example of when we need voter identification because a person is voting in a common, non-precinct, type situation and the voting officials have no idea who that person actually is. So, please vote in support of</p>

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		House Bill 351 to Restore Confidence in Government and make it a requirement to show a form of acceptable identity to prove that a person is who he or she says that he or she is whether it be a county, state or federal based election.
Mr. Kenneth Fulford	Asheville	<p>This bill requires the following:</p> <p>(g) The State Board of Elections shall provide each county board of elections issuing 5 North Carolina voter identification cards with the necessary equipment, forms, supplies, and 6 training for the production of the North Carolina voter identification cards and shall maintain 7 such equipment.</p> <p>At a time when state government is trying to cut expenses and eliminate red tape (bureaucracy) the above part of the bill is counterproductive. There is no need for a photo identification since voters that show up at the polls have already shown identity proof in order to register to vote. Photo identification may be required in a situation such as boarding an airline flight because there has been no prior identity proof established as has been in registering to vote. Please eliminate an unnecessary and expensive photo identification card.</p>
Mrs. Phyllis Gibbs	Greensboro	<p>I fully support HB 351 to require voter ID to vote in N. C. College students are allowed to vote where they go to school. With early voting, they can also go home and vote there. We need a system to make sure they don't vote twice. In this day and age there is no excuse for a person now to have some kind of identification.</p> <p>In this area, they vote "yes" for bonds and then leave town for the rest of us to pay for them. This may be another subject but one that bothers me.</p>
Mr. Kevin Goodwin	Cary	So long as the ID is a Driver's License, or State ID card (available at DMV) I am fine with the law. That being said, requiring voter ID has nothing to do with restoring confidence in government...only confidence in elections. If you want to restore confidence in government, make the lawmakers jump through hoops instead of the voters.
Mrs. Carrie Griffith	Lenoir	<p>Although I appreciate the attempt at voting reform, after I looked over this bill, I feel it is overall unnecessary and a wasteful use of money and resources based on several facts:</p> <p>The State Board of Elections matched its database of 6.1 million registered voters with records at the DMV and found that 1 million voters did not have a NC driver's license or identification card with matching name and address.[WRAL, 2/4/11]</p> <p>African-Americans make up 22 percent of active voters, but are 32 percent of those without a photo ID. [Democracy NC]</p> <p>Seniors over age 65 are 20 percent of active voters, but are 32 percent of those without a photo ID. [Democracy NC]</p> <p>The Institute for Southern Studies has estimated that an effective, full-scale voter ID program could cost North Carolina taxpayers \$20 million or more. [Democracy NC]</p> <p>The State Board of Elections found that only 5 votes per million cast in NC from 2004 to 2010 involved fraud that a Voter ID would have stopped. [Democracy NC]</p> <p>Several studies have shown that extra barriers to voting result in lower turnout at the polls.</p>

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		<p>I personally believe the money and resources used to enforce this bill could be put to better use at a time of budget crisis. Let's use it to preserve jobs and support services such as public education. Thank you for taking the time to read through my concerns.</p> <p>Sincerely, Carrie Griffith</p>
Ms. Joan Halgren	Apex	<p>As a fiscal conservative, I am against House Bill 351. While it's gratifying to know your committee is trying to bolster democracy, I find the voter photo identification portion of the legislation redundant and much too expensive. As a former marketing communications and public relations executive, I know it will cost much more to educate citizens about a photo voter ID card as well as provide adequate training than was outlined in your draft bill. Also, the idea of even adding more budgetary burdens when we are facing such red ink is not prudent. So I encourage you to drop this legislation; instead focus on job creation. There's no great urgency to stem voter fraud when it hardly exists. We need to find smarter ways to spend taxpayer dollars.</p>
Ms. Bettie Anne Hayes	Charlotte	<p>For 91 years, The League of Women Voters has been a leader in protecting voting rights and encouraging informed voter participation. Our organization is committed to free and fair elections to ensure One Person One Vote. The NC General Assembly is prepared to consider House Bill 351 requiring voters to present a photo ID at the polls to be eligible to vote. The League of Women Voters Charlotte- Mecklenburg opposes this oppressive, costly and unnecessary legislation. Proponents of House Bill 351 cite voter fraud as the primary reason for the requirement. There is little evidence of voter fraud in North Carolina, where it is a felony. We are all responsible for reporting suspected voter fraud. The current process for registration and verification of eligibility to vote is working in North Carolina. The LWVC-M believes that the citizens of North Carolina are already acting responsibly and take their voting right seriously. Working together we can continue to ensure One Person, One Vote without adding oppressive, costly and unnecessary legislation. The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization encouraging informed and active participation in government. It influences public policy through education and advocacy. We never support or oppose any political party or candidate.</p>
Mrs. Cecelia Herman	Calabash	<p>I believe it to be a CRIME not require identification for voting. In all my years of voting in another state, I was required to provide identification. I went to vote in 2008 and gave my dead neighbors name and they were going to allow me to vote as her! They didn't know her or me and took my word for it. They were ready to give me a ballot when I stopped and said they were mistaken and I asked for my (my name) ballot. The only people who would want to stop identification want to be able to support voter fraud. How much money could it possibly cost! You can get a Sams Club card requiring your picture on it in 5 minutes while you wait. I am sure there are people like myself that would volunteer to take a digital picture of people and print a voter ID card to protect a fair and fraud free election</p>
chuck hicks	elk park	<p>common sense & local voter records purged of persons moved & deceased</p>
Mrs. Karen Hines	Littleton	<p>I totally support voter ID - politicians don't make a fuss about requiring ID to pick up prescriptions, drive, open a bank account, etc. Why on earth would any of you be against showing ID to vote, which is the most important right we have. Surely you don't want a bunch of illegals voting for you???</p>

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Jan Hinman	Oriental	<p>VOTING SHOULD BE MADE SIMPLER--- NOT MORE COMPLICATED--- SIGNATURES OF REGISTERED VOTERS SHOULD BE ON FILE AT POLLING PLACES--- VOTERS SIGN IN EACH TIME BELOW FILED SIGNATURE IT'S AS SIMPLE AS THAT--- NO MORE IS NEEDED---</p> <p>THIS MOVE TO RESTRICT VORING IS JUST THAT!!! AND WILL COST MONEY!!! IN A TIME WHEN BUDGET IS PARAMOUNT</p> <p>SHAME ON THE GOP!!!!!!!</p>
Mrs. Jan Hinman	Oriental	<p>Can't believe that North Carolina is regressing into the dark ages---</p> <p>Voting of qualified parties is the essence of the democratic process!!!!!!!!</p> <p>Make it easier--- not more complicated----</p> <p>WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF?????</p>
Mr. Stephen Hofstatter	Charlotte	<p>It is my firm conviction that this bill is both unnecessary and prejudicial to those 400,000+ active, valid voters who do not have photo ID. The state has far greater issues to address than a handful of unsubstantiated claims of voter fraud.</p>
Mr. Jason Holliday	Mount Olive	<p>To put it simply, it is the actions of government that encourages people to have confidence in their governing body. No piece of paper or bill will serve any purpose unless it serves a functional purpose such as limiting all elected officials from serving more than two consecutive terms. It is my opinion that grown Americans should not have to be told how to be ethical, that is something you learn from your mama and in church.</p>
Mr. Winston Hooker Senior	Cary	<p>I sent the following message to Bill LuMaye and the N&O yesterday.</p> <p>I was a deputy county registrar in Palm Beach County, Florida during an election year once. I went door to door in several low income neighborhoods, both white and black and registered 126 new voters so I don't have a problem with African-Americans and/or poor citizens voting.</p> <p>I strongly believe that we should go to a requirement for government issued photo ID's when registering to vote and when casting a vote.</p> <p>Disenfranchising the elderly, poor or minorities who are otherwise eligible as citizens to register and vote is a smokescreen. If they can get transportation to register and transportation to the polls on Election Day, they can get transportation to the DMV office just once and get a photo ID. I'll go one better and volunteer to drive one such person to the DMV office and back home again and pay for the cost of the ID out of my own pocket. Democrats who object just "hope" that some unqualified people will vote because they feel that they would probably vote a straight Democrat ticket.</p>

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		<p>Here are my reasons:</p> <p>I have voted in every election since I was first eligible in 1964. I have moved from NC to FL to NC to MO to NC to MD to NC to MO to NC and have registered in each of those locations after moving.</p> <p>I have worked on campaigns for candidates for the U.S. House, Missouri Legislature, U.S. Senate, Wake County Public School System Board of Education, Town of Cary Town Council, and Clerk of Wake County Superior Court.</p> <p>I have donated money for a number of candidates for their respective campaigns and just donated \$35.00 to Sheriff Joe Arpaio of Maricopa County, Arizona who is running for the U.S. Senate.</p> <p>I spend hundreds of hours before every election familiarizing myself with the candidates and their political history and voting records. I attend political events and political clubs to meet and speak with candidates whenever possible. I write letters and emails to all of my congressional representatives and occasionally speak with their aides on the phone. I keep a list of the chairmen of the various congressional committees and subcommittees on the subjects on which I have particular interest and have written letters to each of them and to each of the Republican members of their respective committees.</p> <p>I spent two years developing a solution to the Social Security crisis and mailed a copy to the committee members and to all of my own congressional representatives.</p> <p>I spent over a year developing an 11-part solution to the problem dealing with immigration reform and have sent that to the appropriate congressional representatives. I vehemently object to "comprehensive reform" legislation of any kind as there is always mischief hidden in such bills.</p> <p>I read the News and Observer EVERY DAY, but don't hold that against me. I write letters to the editor on political issues regularly but they will only print one per month from the same reader.</p> <p>I prepare and inform myself before I vote and I expect others to at least be eligible.</p> <p>I believe that if just one ineligible voter, such as those recruited by the likes of ACORN, casts a vote, his uniformed, illegal vote is canceling my vote. One illegal vote is one too many.</p> <p>Winston T. Hooker, Sr., Cary, NC</p>
Mr. David Hostetler	Raleigh	I hope every member of the assembly will see the benefit of this bill to keep the elections fair and honest. We all know that there are times that elections are questioned and I believe that providing proof of your residency to the proper districts is vitally important. Please pass this bill for your fellow citizens and for the future of this country and our children.
Mrs. Charlene Irish	Waynesville	It seems so logical to require a photo ID to anyone who wants to vote in this country. I am apalled at the refusal of politicians to be unfavorable to this.Let's just get it done.
Ms. Sandy Irving	Raleigh	I oppose this bill which is very aptisan. Bob Hall of Democracy NC has pointed out some issues that should be considered if one is concerned about voter fraud. The first is absentee voting which is not addressed in this bill, nor does the bill address non-citizens or folks who have moved but have voter IDs. So fraud may be increased with this bill. It does, however, reduce the likely hood that poor whether young or elderly or in-between will vote. The bill should have been introduced in the day light with adequate time for review for complete transparency if it is of clear purpose. Please oppose this bill.
Mr. Nelson Isley	Reidsville,	I find it absolutely ridiculous that this has not been the law ALWAYS! Our state has become a honey comb for illegal people, and one has only to look at the daily news from all over the state to see the crime being committed by people who have no right to be here. If anyone in 2011 can not show an ID then they are too stupid to vote. I will keep my eyes on the leaders who do not vote for House Bill 351!

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Mrs. Paula Jessup	Fayetteville	I do think that voters should be required to show a picture ID
Mr. James Johnson	Wade	<p>The required documentation to vote should be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) a current North Carolina driver's license; (2) a current North Carolina DMV issued state identification card; (3) a valid Military identification card or (4) a current United States Passport. <p>The argument to include the Board of Elections voter registration card, and some other form of documentation proving residency, makes no sense to me. A valid ID is needed to get a voter registration card when you register to vote initially, so what happened to the valid ID that was used to obtain the registration card? Has the valid ID been lost since registering to vote? If so, has it happened to so many people that we have to add an additional document for voting? I just have trouble believing that many people have lost their ID since registering to vote.</p> <p>The argument that it will disproportionately affect the poor and disadvantaged doesn't make any sense to me either. The state has the means to provide a free ID to eligible voters who can't afford to pay for one. If they don't get a free ID from the State and can't produce a valid ID when they go to vote, they will still be able to vote using a provisional ballot. The provisional ballot will then be verified by the Board of Elections as to its' validity. NO ONE will be denied to ability to vote.</p> <p>Adding any documents other than a North Carolina driver's license; a North Carolina DMV issued state identification card; a Military identification card; or a United States Passport, creates a very large loophole for voter fraud and defeats the whole purpose of this bill, which is to tighten our lax voting requirements in this state.</p> <p>Additional requirements of the Voter ID Bill that we would like to see included are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Require that election precinct officers confirm the identity of each voter and record their identification number and, 2) Provide that failure to comply with these requirements will constitute election fraud, and be punishable as a felony under state law. <p>Using this format, we would demonstrate that we take our privilege to vote in North Carolina and the sanctity of the process, very seriously.</p>
Mr. David J. Jones	Fayetteville	I was surprised in November when I went to vote in Swansboro, where I am registered, but have voted by mail for several years because I have been teaching and living in the Fayetteville area. I'm retired now, and will be moving permanently to my house in Swansboro. Anyway, I was surprised when I went to vote in person because I just told them my name (I had my driver's license ready) and they gave me all the stuff I needed to vote. I don't think it would be too difficult for anybody to have a photo ID, ready to present at voting time. My first few Driver's Licenses didn't have pictures, but since they started using photos, I've had one. I think a photo ID is a good idea.
Mr. William Jones	Wake Forest	As a citizen,taxpayer, and registered voter in North Carolina I am opposed to this bill. All voters in North Carolina are now required to present more than one form of identification and proof of residence to register in North Carolina and subsequently be able to vote. Why not present a voter registration card when voting at the polling place? That would

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		make more common sense. Requiring a senior citizen, or anyone for that matter in North Carolina to present a photo ID is senseless and more partisan than not. I urge you to reject this bill.
Mr. Evan Kane	Raleigh	Lack of ID requirements at polling stations is NOT what undermines confidence in government for me. What undermines my confidence in government is pettiness, inadequate funding, inability to attract competent employees due to inadequate compensation packages. This bill is unnecessary, mean-spirited, and Un-American.
Mrs. eleanor kealey	pittsboro	We are asked to show ID when writing a check, even using a credit card in my name! Voting is important enough to SHOW WE ARE WHO WE SAY WE ARE! I want to keep INTEGRITY on the ballot. People have to earn the right to vote; we must be registered etc. eleanor kealey
Dr. ALEXANDER KEHAYES	EDENTON	Photo ID should be mandatory for voting in NC.
Mr. George King	Hillsborough	I am writing to voice my support for voter ID in NC, as well as nationwide. Elections in this country have become the targets of massive voter fraud and are in danger of losing all remnants of credibility. In 2008, I personally witnessed numerous acts of unethical if not illegal voter fraud myself. I saw vanloads of assisted living facility workers bring patients to the polls who were obviously incapable of comprehending where they were, let alone make a decision about voting for the leaders we were electing to public office. There were patients with levels of mental retardation so severe that they were little more than conscious who were being wheeled into the polls and the workers would just vote "for them". I have heard people brag of voting in multiple locations. These abuses must stop. The outcry of hardship or racism or voter suppression is but an attempt to subvert the process of regaining election integrity. North Carolinians must show a picture ID to purchase alcohol or cigarettes, open a bank account, cash a check, or even shop at a warehouse club retailer. The only thing a requirement to show a valid ID in order to vote would suppress is voter fraud. Without fair and honest elections, we are no better than the third world and Arab dictatorships of which the citizens look to us as a model of freedom and democracy. Vote Yes on HB351, or risk losing our freedom to a system of fraud and tyranny! Thank You and God Bless America.
Mrs. Patricia Kleinmaier	Pfafftown	I understand you are thinking of eliminating the requirement for photo id in the bill. I don't understand why you would want to do that. It is important they people be able to prove who they are to vote, just like they have to do to cash a check, open a bank account, use their credit cards, fly on airplanes. What percentage of people in this state no longer have a photo id, be it a drivers license or a state issued id card. If they have no proof how they get registered to vote in the first place. As an election judge I found that people who volunteered their id's sure made registering voters easier. A lot of people have odd spellings of their first name and you have to spend more time getting them signed in. With a photo id having to be presented it would speed up the process and get more people voting quicker. We know the next election is going to be very busy and anything we can do to speed up the check in would be appreciated.
Mrs. Patricia Kleinmaier	Pfafftown	I worked as an election judge in 2010 for the 3 elections plus early voting. I can attest that having a person show an ID to vote makes the registration process so much faster. People have odd spellings of names, foreign names or do not speak loudly or clearly. It some times took a long time to check them in unless they presented either their id or voter registration card. Also some people gave addresses that did not match what was on our list and then we had to ask for id anyway to try and verify where they should be voting. When you have a large crowd waiting to sign in to vote it is very frustrating

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		<p>having to spend time doing these things. With an ID a lot of this would be eliminated. I found that a lot of old voters were mad that they didn't have to present ID. I know there are other states that require ID and people that are eligible to vote do not have problems. Most people have an ID and arrangements could be made to provide those to those who don't and doesn't everyone get a voter registration card in the mail after they register. I do not think registration should be done at early voting. People have plenty of time to get registered to vote and it is too time consuming on a big turnout election.</p>
Julie Klipp	Asheville	<p>This bill would discourage citizen participation in voting, particularly by the young and impoverished. In this time of budget woes and unemployment this is not a priority and is a distraction to the really work that the state needs to be focused on. I urge you to vote against this bill.</p>
Mrs. lillian knoetgen	new bern	<p>to cash a check anywhere in nc or the usa I must have a photo id to travel same thing and to use our credit card when is NC going to start doing that so we cannot be ripped of by crooks and aliens. I want Photo ID NOW so does NC</p>
Ms. Karla Knotts	Charlotte	<p>Thank You - we need to require voters to present identification to vote.(the current law requires they print & mail me a registration card but then I don't need it for anything-- that is wasteful). Identification is required for too many other things in life (cash a check, board a plane, get in downtown office buildings....)so those who fight this must be trying to hide something</p> <p>The process for early voting has allowed too many opportunities for fraudulent voting. I would suggest that the early voting provisions also be altered or shortened.</p>
Mrs. Holly Koerber	Elizabeth City	<p>All the claims of, "little evidence of voter fraud" are disingenuous. It is very easy to review voter registration rolls & voter history and determine whose name you can likely get away with claiming since no ID is required. What makes it hard to know the degree to which this does happen is the ridiculous provision in the law on how you can contest a person's vote. You have to be physically present, hear the person claim a name that you know not to be their own and make a contest about that fraudulent vote on the spot. If lawmakers who authored this provision-directly related to those complaining about ID's being required, were genuine about preserving the integrity of the elections, that provision would also be totally changed. I am all for ID's. Our current system provides for NO meaningful way to challenge or identify voter fraud but makes it VERY easy to commit.</p>
Joyce Krawiec	Kernersville	<p>I understand that the committee is considering changing from the original requirement of showing photo ID for voting purposes. Then why make any changes at all....tinkering around the edges will not make our process better.</p> <p>Citizens of NC deserve to feel confident that when they cast a vote in NC, they will not be disenfranchised because others are casting votes illegally. A photo ID should be required in order for voters to prove they are who they say they are.</p> <p>The changes that are being discussed, comparing signatures by poll workers, is a farce at the very least. It will slow down the voting process at the polling place and will further frustrate the voters.</p> <p>The people of NC spoke loudly in the last election and this is one of the issues they were speaking on. Republicans made a promise that this is one of the things they would do and they were rewarded for that promise. Elections have consequences and promises should not be broken..</p> <p>There are several Democrats that I have spoken with who are solidly behind a photo ID requirement, so there is obviously a small minority against this requirement.</p>

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		<p>It is time to represent the voters of NC in giving them confidence that their votes will not be disenfranchised by those who are not legally able to vote.</p> <p>Restore the original bill requiring a photo ID because it is the right thing to do.</p>
Dr. Maja Kricker	Pittsboro	<p>I am Chair of the Chatham County Board of Elections. I am expressing an opinion only for myself and not for any other board member or staff of the Chatham County Board of Elections. I am strongly opposed to the part of House Bill 351 requiring photo ID for several reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The bill would disenfranchise older individuals, poor and homeless individuals and serve generally to suppress the vote. Often these individuals do not have photo identification, may vote by mail and do not have transportation to get to a location to obtain the required photo identification. Additionally, we have voters who are wary of intrusive government behavior, are concerned that their votes are being tracked and would not exercise their franchise if required to obtain or display a photo ID in order to vote. The requirement would result in long lines at the polls and voters on their way to work or with young children in tow would leave the lines without voting. This bill would reduce confidence in government, not improve it. 2. The cost of providing photo identification puts an additional tax burden on county residents at a time when they are struggling to meet their most basic economic needs. The cost of the equipment to provide photo ID is not the primary expense in providing this service. We would need additional personnel to take the photos, additional poll workers at one-stop voting sites to approve photo IDs and to take photo IDs, and additional poll workers to assist voters with provisional ballots on election day. We anticipate that there would be many provisional ballots because voters would forget to bring the ID cards. This could also result in provisional ballots at one-stop voting unless the law addresses this problem and allows the individual to register again and get a new ID. <p>Staff would have to spend additional time approving or disapproving provisional ballots, requiring more temporary workers.</p> <p>We would have to provide a new ID every time the voter changes his(her) name or address. Staff would have to travel to the homes of elderly or disabled shut-ins (and intrude on their privacy) to provide ID cards, and the county would have to pay for travel costs at a time when gas prices are at an all-time high. Our county is large in area and rural in character, and the costs would not be trivial. Additionally, our all-ready overworked staff would be required to work more over-time than they currently work, placing an additional burden on them and their families.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. There is no evidence that people are voting under registered voter names that are not theirs. We have certainly not seen any evidence of this in our county where so many of us know each other, know our neighbors and would be aware of fraudulent voters. Studies of this issue have shown that this type of voter fraud is not a problem and the sponsoring legislators should be required to show evidence of voter fraud because of identity theft. <p>I want to plead with you not to break the North Carolina voting system. I have lived in New York, California and Connecticut and I truly believe that we currently have the fairest system in the country. The existing North Carolina statutes and precinct standards make me proud to serve on my county Board of Elections. We are a model for every other state. Please do not break our electoral system that all of us have worked so hard to implement. I would hang my head in shame and be unable to look my voters and neighbors in the eye if this bill passed.</p>

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Mr. Herman Lankford	Weaverville	Please exhibit some common decency and common sense by giving The Restore Confidence in Government (euphemistic horsehit) a quick and much deserved burial. This shameless effort to consolidate power by disenfranchising non-driving voters is anything but a way of restoring confidence in government.
Ms. Linda Lankford	Sanford	I think it should be require to show ID to vote. It is only good common sense. You have to have an ID for everything you do now. It is just a lame excuse to continue illegal voting. I show my ID when I vote to make a statement to the workers at the voting site I think it should be required. It also should be a legal State form with a picture like your license. No letters with addresses, cable bills, electric bills that is just plain stupid. People can afford to buy lottery tickets, beer, and what ever they want; they don't want a ID for voting so they can't afford it. Then they shouldn't vote.
Mrs. Gina Lemons	Charlotte	I am against this bill. This bill essentially ends up being a "voter fee". I work with individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities and they may or may not have a photo ID. Many of these individuals vote independently. Every eligible citizen does not have the savvy to navigate nonessential laws. People will show up to vote without ID and be turned away. This bill will cause many North Carolina citizens to be treated as second class citizens.
Ms. Deborah Leonard	Thomasville	I think this is unnecessary and a waste of taxpayer money. Voter fraud is not a problem, getting people to come and vote is the problem. More paperwork/barriers also will tend to keep more people away, especially the more poorly educated voters and those of color. I am strongly against this bill. Thank you.
Mr. Ronald Lewis	Cary	I don't see how you can expect the citizens of NC to ever have confidence in your ability or willingness to act with integrity and honesty on behalf of the citizens who elected you when you demonstrate no compassion for them. Witness the over 37,000 unemployed who no longer have extended unemployment benefits. While each of you and your families enjoy the "good life" as the result of the many tax payments these 37,000 plus citizens have paid into our state treasury over the years, these citizens and their families are now left without resources to pay rent/mortgage, utilities, and food. I just don't see how you can play with the lives of so many people who really need you to grow up and do the right thing on behalf of citizens. There is just to much political posturing going on at all levels of government. Someone needs to stand up for the citizens who need help. It is not about standing up for your political party or posturing for the next round of elections -- doing the right thing. Our country is going down the tubes and it is happening at an accelerated pace because elected officials care too much about themselves and their futures.
Ms. Rebecca Luckie	Brevard	It is greatly alarming to see a Republican lead state legislature pursing such a bill that will so blatantly discriminate against the poor and least educated citizens of the state of North Carolina. I do not believe voter fraud is a problem in this state. I believe the funding set forth in this bill could be put to much better use for public education across the state.
Mr. Michael Maher	Raleigh	Sirs, I found it interesting that our NC state Republicans, a party which claims less government and fiscal responsibility, would propose a voter photo id bill which would mean more intrusive government at a cost of untold millions, this at a time our state can least afford it. Supporters of the bill claim it is needed to reign in voter fraud but as we all know photo id is easily counterfeited, just ask any under age college student. A better solution would be a state wide photo data bank but that would take years and millions of dollars to implement if we decided its really needed that is. Since 2002 over the entire state of North Carolina there have been less the 300 cases of voter fraud, hardly alarming numbers. This proposed bill is not about fraud but rather a misguided political maneuver to make it harder for a portion of our citizenry, the elder, poor, and handicapped, to participate in our democratic system. This group just so happens to be a traditional part of the democrats party's base. The very idea that our republicans would opt to hinder anyone's birth right to vote in order to gain political ground is in my opinion, politics at its worse. This is an effort to silence votes which republicans believe may not go their way. Republicans claim voting is "too easy" and that fraud could sway the outcome of a close election. A democracy functions at its best when everyone participates and in close elections those denied access to the polls due to

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		lack of photo id will also sway elections in, what republicans hope will be, their favor. My grandmother does not possess a driver license but that shouldn't exclude her from being part of this democracy.
David Mandalinich	McLeansville	The requirement for a photo ID to vote is a no-brainer. No citizen can write a check at the grocery store without a photo ID. A citizen cannot cash a check at a bank without a photo ID and a thumbprint(if they are not known by the tellers). Your committee must do everything in your power to stop voter fraud. The requirement for a photo ID would be a starting point to stop voter fraud.
Mr. James Manning	Raleigh	While I agree the a Voter ID law makes common sense, I do see the need to accept an alternative form of indentification other than a State Issued ID. Make those alternatives the same as what the DMV will accept to show proof of residence: Any document issued by the State of North Carolina or any of its political subdivisions (county, city, tax district, etc.) or by the federal government; An apartment lease, housing contract, or mortgage statement; A utility bill (ie. power bill, cable bill, water bill, etc.) There isn't one person in NC who is legally elligible to vote that shouldn't be able to provide one of those documents
Mr. Donald Marcopulos	Asheville	I believe this Bill 351 is proper, needed, addresses my and many voter's concerns and should be swiftly passed and enacted. My only concern is "What took so long" to do this. Thank you. Donald P. Marcopulos II
Mr. Levon Martin	Cary	I think it is extremely important to change existing NC law so that voters must present government issued photo identification in order to vote. No one knows the extent of illegal voting in NC. If nothing else, the perception of only legal voters must be upheld. I can't cash a check without showing valid photo ID - why should I be able to vote without it?
Mrs. Patricia Martin	New Bern	I am in favor of having Voter ID that is with a picture of the person voting, with address,and sex of the person voting, and any other pertinent information that would validate that it is that person.
Dan May	Chapel Hill	Requiring picture ID to vote is pure common sense and only prudent. The power of our individual votes is valuable enough to protect with this almost effortless requirement. With the flood of illegals in NC, many having fake and counterfeit identification and SS#, we must take precautions to assure the integrity of the vote. Anyone not having a picture ID today needs a reason to get one anyway! Pass this Bill.
Ms. BETTY MC GUIRE	SOUTHERN PINES	I just read about the amended version of this bill. That is a step in the right direction. We all have our voter registration card with our signature. I have read the comments made by other organizations and other people. Requiring a new costly photo ID is overkill. The extra cost in these budget crunch times is not a good move.
Mrs. Beth McAndrew	Apex	Please keep the photo id requirement!
Mrs. Elizabeth McCue	Saxapahaw	I think that requiring a voter ID is a bad idea. It will be disenfranchising for the elderly, those who don't drive, those who are disabled and people who for other reasons may not have a driver's license or passport. On a side note, I have not encountered any problems with our present system of voting here in North Carolina. I don't

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		believe in spending money on changing a system that functions quite well presently.
Mr. Mark McCullough	Charlotte	I would like to express my full support of this bill. It's about time our state legislature tightened up the voting process to make sure, within reason, that all persons voting are actually eligible to vote in our state, or in our country for that matter in the case of federal elections. If our country is supposed to be the world's seat of democracy, and we don't have integrity in our own elections, then democracy means nothing. Many thanks to you for prioritizing this issue for our state!!!
Mr. Jon McDonald	Sanford	Perception is reality in the case of voter fraud. I have heard the arguments against a voter ID and none are valid. I live in a community where the average age is above 65 and there is almost unanimous support for HB 351. Pass this bill and get on to more important stuff.
Mr. Pender McElroy	Charlotte	This bill is not necessary. There is no evidence of fraud by voters in this state. This legislation is clearly a partisan effort to restrict access to the polls. The party in control in the NC Legislature needs to consider that the voters in our state will have an opportunity to evaluate this and other legislation in 2012.
Ms. Bobbie McLaughlin	Whitsett	I have to show a picture ID to cash a check, to use my debit card and to do any type of business, I don't think it's too much to ask that someone voting in our elections have to show the same.
Anna McLeod	Raleigh	163-166.12 is unnecessary as it creates more of a burden on law-abiding registered voters than it does on alleviating or attacking a voter fraud problem. There is little to no evidence of a voter fraud problem in North Carolina and there are already sufficient measures in place to ensure that voting procedures are fair. To commit voter fraud in NC is a felony and as such there is already a sufficient deterrent effect. Requiring photo identification will result in the poor and elderly segments of the population, whose right to vote is just as dear as the wealthy and youthful population. The citizens of North Carolina do not need remedies to problems that don't exist. This bill is ill-conceived and to overlook the fact that registered voters without a drivers license or any form of identification under this bill would be unduly burdened with the cost of acquiring such ID is irresponsible. If the General Assembly is true in its service to NC, it would conduct an earnest fact-finding inquiry about on the issue of voter fraud in NC. Such an inquiry would make clear that this bill is wholly unnecessary. As such, it does nothing to "restore confidence in government." Confidence would be best restored by a reasoned approach to a real problem. This bill does no such thing. It should not become law in this state. Thank you.
Betsy Meads	Elizabeth City	As a former county elections board member I can attest to the need for Voter ID. As far as Voter Fraud, the State and Local Board are not responsible for detecting fraud, it is the VOTER
Mr. George Meier	Charlotte	Proper voiting makes requirements on citizens such as pre-registering, much like paying taxes and abiding by laws and regulations. There is a responsibility to declare and substantiate identity for voting. With months and years between elections, conscientious citizens can obtain an acceptable photo ID.
Mr. Ed Meilus	Raleigh	Please PASS the Voter I'D Bill. We need to have accountability for our most basic right to vote.
Ms. Robin Merrell	Marshall	<p>Please do not pass House Bill 351. Requiring identification to vote will harm the most vulnerable among us, the poor, uneducated, homeless and elderly. People who are already disenfranchised will become more so.</p> <p>My grandfather could not read or write and did not have identification. He would walk miles to town to vote because it was important to him. He took my mom with him because she could read. Later on, she took me along, too. They taught me that election day is the day that we are all the same. No one is more important than anyone else in a voting booth. I</p>

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		<p>have never missed an opportunity to vote, and I don't plan to start now.</p> <p>The identification requirement harkens back to Jim Crow laws, and it makes me very sad. Please do not pass this bill.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Mr. richard morgan	Mars Hill	<p>This is waste of our time and money. At a time of budget crisis this is no time to add millions of dollars for unnecessary procedures. Spend your time reducing real waste in budget. It will not improve voting and will keep some from being able to vote.</p>
winston Morgan	Raleigh	<p>Subject: FREE LUNCH!!!!</p> <p>900 teachers just got laid off from the Los Angeles Unified School District. They are \$650,000 over their annual budget. The following English teacher helps to explain one area that looms large over California's educational crisis.</p> <p>THIS HAS GOT TO BE PASSED ALONG TO AS MANY AS POSSIBLE OR WE WILL ALL GO DOWN THE DRAIN BECAUSE A FEW DON'T CARE.</p> <p>This English teacher has phrased it quite well. This should make everyone think, be you Democrat, Republican or Independent From a California school teacher - - -</p> <p>"As you listen to the news about the student protests over illegal immigration, there are some things that you should be aware of: I am in charge of the English-as-a-second-language department at a large southern California high school which is designated a Title 1 school, meaning that its students average lower socioeconomic and income levels</p> <p>Most of the schools you are hearing about, South Gate High, Bell Gardens , Huntington Park, etc., where these students are protesting, are also Title 1 schools.</p> <p>Title 1 schools are on the free breakfast and free lunch program. When I say free breakfast, I'm not talking a glass of milk and roll -- but a full breakfast and cereal bar with fruits and juices that would make a Marriott proud. The waste of this food is monumental, with trays and trays of it being dumped in the trash uneaten. (OUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK)</p> <p>I estimate that well over 50% of these students are obese or at least moderately overweight. About 75% or more DO have cell phones. The school also provides day care centers for the unwed teenage pregnant girls (some as young as 13) so they can attend class without the inconvenience of having to arrange for babysitters or having family watch their kids. (OUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK)</p> <p>I was ordered to spend \$700,000 on my department or risk losing funding for the upcoming year even though there was little need for anything; my budget was already substantial. I ended up buying new computers for the computer learning center, half of which, one month later, have been carved with graffiti by the appreciative students who obviously feel humbled and grateful to have a free education in America. (OUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK)</p>

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I have had to intervene several times for young and substitute teachers whose classes consist of many illegal immigrant students here in the country less than 3 months who raised so much hell with the female teachers, calling them "Putas"(whores) and throwing things, that the teachers were in tears.

Free medical, free education, free food, day care, etc., etc, etc. Is it any wonder they feel entitled not only to be in this country but to demand rights, privileges and entitlements?

To those who want to point out how much these illegal immigrants contribute to our society because they LIKE their gardener and housekeeper and they like to pay less for tomatoes: spend some time in the real world of illegal immigration and see the TRUE costs.

Higher insurance, medical facilities closing, higher medical costs, more crime, lower standards of education in our schools, overcrowding, new diseases etc., etc, etc. For me, I'll pay more for tomatoes.

Americans, We need to wake up. The guest worker program will be a disaster because we won't have the guts to enforce it. Does anyone in their right mind really think they will voluntarily leave and return?

It does, however, have everything to do with culture: A third-world culture that does not value education, that accepts children getting pregnant and dropping out of school by 15 and that refuses to assimilate, and an American culture that has become so weak and worried about "political correctness " that we don't have the will to do anything about it.

If this makes your blood boil, as it did mine, forward this to everyone you know including your Congressmen and Senators.

CHEAP LABOR? Isn't that what the whole immigration issue is about?

Business doesn't want to pay a decent wage.

Consumers don't want expensive produce.

Government will tell you Americans don't want the jobs.

But the bottom line is cheap labor. The phrase "cheap labor" is a myth, a farce, and a lie. There is no such thing as "cheap labor."

Take, for example, an illegal alien with a wife and five children. He takes a job for \$5.00 or 6.00/hour. At that wage, with six dependents, he pays no income tax, yet at the end of the year, if he files an Income Tax Return, he gets an "earned income credit" of up to \$3,200 free.

He qualifies for Section 8 housing and subsidized rent.

He qualifies for food stamps.

He qualifies for free (no deductible), no co-pay) health care.

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		<p>His children get free breakfasts and lunches at school.</p> <p>He requires bilingual teachers and books.</p> <p>He qualifies for relief from high energy bills...</p> <p>If they are or become, aged, blind or disabled, they qualify for SSI. Once qualified for SSI they can qualify for Medicare. All of this is at (our) taxpayer's expense.</p> <p>He doesn't worry about car insurance, life insurance, or homeowners insurance.</p> <p>Taxpayers provide Spanish language signs, bulletins and printed material.</p> <p>He and his family receive the equivalent of \$20.00 to \$30.00/hour in benefits.</p> <p>Working Americans are lucky to have \$5.00 or \$6.00/hour left after paying their bills AND his.</p> <p>The American taxpayers also pay for increased crime, graffiti and trash clean-up.</p> <p>Cheap labor? YEAH RIGHT! Wake up people!</p> <p>THESE ARE THE QUESTIONS WE SHOULD BE ADDRESSING TO THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES FOR EITHER PARTY. 'AND WHEN THEY LIE TO US AND DON'T DO AS THEY SAY, WE SHOULD REPLACE THEM AT ONCE!'</p>
Mr. Ed Morris	morganton	<p>To verify that each person who votes is a legitimate voter should be not only desired by both democrats and republicans, but required. To allow voting without verification that the person voting is a qualified voter leads to voter fraud. If a drivers license is used for voter identification, there should be a requirement to verify a person is a legal resident of the US before issuing a NC drivers license and non-residents should be identified as such on the drivers license. In the state of AZ, if you have a NC drivers license and apply for a AZ drivers license, a birth certificate or passport is required before a AZ license will be issued because NC does not require proof of citizenship before receiving a NC drivers license. I support house bill 351.</p>
Mr. Phil Morrow	Raleigh	<p>I am in full support of requiring photo ID for all voters. I have been advocating for this for many elections. LONG OVERDUE.</p> <p>Along the lines of the title of HB 351: I would love to see NC require proof of citizenship to ALL candidates to include Presidential elections and if proof is not made available, they will not be placed on the ballot and if they happen to win via write-in, they will not receive the electorate count or be certified by the state.</p>
Mr. Edwin Nealis	Littleton	<p>Those opposing this bill oppose it only because it eliminates their fraudulent practices. Voting is an important right for the legitimate registered voters of this state. Their interests need to be protected not those of the political manipulators and the unethical.</p>

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Mr. Charle4s Newman	Iron Station	It is my opinion that those who oppose HB 351 do so for one and only one reason. They support vote fraud and expect to benefit from it. There is no excuse for supporting criminal behavior. All claims to the contrary are deceptive and disgraceful. In my opinion every legislator who votes no is admitting support for criminal behavior.
Mr. Dennis Nield	Morrisville	In reference to House Bill 351, I am in complete support of the requirement that voter be required to show valid photo ID at the voting place. I am dumbfounded that this requirement was not been put into place decades ago. In my opinion, asking for valid photo ID at the voting place does not infringe on anyone's rights at all. When I vote, I will proudly provide proof of citizenship. In fact, I agree that every citizen has the duty (and the personal responsibility)to provide their own Proof of Citizenship. Please pass Bill 351. We support it!!! Dennis G Nield (919 608 1946)
Mr. Martin Oakes	Denver	I found in the last election another change I believe is necessary -- (see §163-89) Challenges to absentee ballots can only be made between noon and until 5pm on election day -- for ballots received by election day. We're all a little busy on election day to wade through absentee ballots in a 5-hr window, and the day after the last election I found a group of 50 suspect ballots with requests signed (apparently) by the same person and I couldn't challenge. Challenge window needs to be until the Friday after the election, same as for late-received absentee ballots. And the window needs to start the day BEFORE election, at least, since most of the absentees have been received by then. Similarly, challenges now are ONLY by a voter in the same precinct, and that needs to be widened to include ANY county precinct judge and ANY candidate, at least... Lastly, I'm a little concerned that voting absentee apparently creates a window for non-photo ID voting, but I can't see an easy way to solve that. Martin Oakes Treasurer, Lincoln County Republican Party

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Ms. Karen Oelschlaeger	Asheville	<p>I very strongly object to the portion of this bill that would require voters to provide a photo ID. This requirement would disproportionately affect low-income and elderly voters. I have heard some describe this as "a modern day poll tax" and I think there is some truth in that comparison.</p> <p>In my mind, this bill calls for \$600,000 of wasteful, irresponsible spending of taxpayer dollars.</p>
Mr. Charles Parker	Washington	<p>I fully support H.B. 351. Our state is one of the top corrupt states of the union. Just look at the like of Easley and Edwards!! Confidence needs to be regained in our state and this bill points us in the right direction. Why have we not already incorporated the use of photo identification in our state if it were not for illegal gains!! Our privilege to vote should be secured and this seems to be the most logical and effective means to do so. It would make me feel more at ease knowing that my identity and every other voter's identity was verified with either photo id.</p>
Mrs. Donna Parker	Washington	<p>YES, this bill is long overdue! Every state should be doing this and many already do. Our election process is of great importance and should be held to high standards, which includes a legal validation of the citizens that are voting. And there is voter fraud, the statistics don't include the ones that aren't caught. I want every precaution taken to ensure that my vote is not cancelled out by an illegal vote and I am entitled to that assurance. My mother whom was 83 years old, had to obtain a picture ID (she did not have a drivers license) for her doctors appointments, hospital visits, and any other business that she did which required a valid ID. She was a senior citizen on a very limited income yet never complained about having to obtain this ID since she knew it was required of her. Do what's right by the citizens of North Carolina and assure us of a valid, secure and legal voting system. Vote YES for the H B 351.</p>
Margaret Parker	Chapel Hill	<p>I can NOT imagine why any responsible soul in this state would want to propose a bill costing \$250 million dollars to implement when we are facing such a HUGE debt and no problem exists that calls for Voter ID. I have worked essentially all election days in my precinct since 1970 in various jobs and have served as Precinct Chief Judge for past eight years at least. H B 351 would disenfranchise many who vote regularly and legally. It is a very undemocratic step in the wrong direction. Our country is built of free expression of all people at the polls - which is why I continue to serve on election days.</p>
Mr. Frederick Parnell	Hickory	<p>I find it appalling that at a time of unprecedented state budget problems where people are going to lose their jobs and children are going to be denied a decent and equal education because of cuts;</p> <p>"The sum of six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000) is appropriated from the General Fund for the 2011-2012 fiscal year to a special reserve to carry out the provisions of this subdivision and to provide for issuance of North Carolina voter identification cards under G.S. 163-166.13 as enacted by this act."</p> <p>Don't we have better things to spend this money on?</p>
Mrs. Laura Parnell	Hickory	<p>The Voter ID Bill is a bad idea. It would cost North Carolina millions in tax money that could save the jobs of teachers and others. This bill would make voting a bigger hassle for everyone. There are better ways to reduce fraud while protecting our voting rights. People of color, students, the elderly, people with disabilities and low-income citizens are all less likely to have a license and more likely to face difficulty getting to the DMV to update their license. The time and money used to get a photo ID is like a poll tax – a way to keep African Americans from voting for years. The photo ID bill is a biased, modern-day power grab. In 45 of the 50 states, the voter is permitted to vote without showing any document, OR required to show a HAVA-standard document, OR if there's a stricter standard, allowed to sign a sworn statement and vote. It's already a felony to vote illegally in NC or to lie when you sign in to vote. Poll watchers can challenge voters and an ID with verified address is required to register anyway. Less than 5 votes in 1,000,000 in NC involve fraud that a photo ID would</p>

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		<p>stop. Additionally, I do not appreciate a comment that one representative made on a public media networking website about his intention being to pass this bill to make liberals angry so that they can stop stealing elections.</p>
Mr. James Pennell	Fayetteville	<p>Voting is important enough to require photo id. You already have to register to vote. Anyone can already get a cheap state photo id card at DMV and the way I understand it this bill provides another way to get an id. With the often paltry voter turnout in NC elections each vote counts. That's an inducement for exactly the kind of people we do NOT want in office to have a dead man or illegal immigrant vote.</p>
Sarah Peterson	Asheville	<p>I am opposed to this bill because it is a misuse of taxpayer money and state funds. It is directed at shutting out low income voters. It creates hassle for people who have recently changed their name/married. It creates extra steps for voters who would have to obtain an ID Card. It shuts out young people who are newly eligible to vote. This is a terrible bill.</p>
Mr. David Phillips	Black Mountain	<p>Absolutely the best. Please go forward with this. An ID requirement for voting, in my opinion, would be the first step in eliminating fraud.</p>
Mr. John Pizzo	Raleigh	<p>I'm the person that found hundreds and hundreds of 110 year olds on the Guilford voter roll. I was also an early voting poll observer at the Downtown site on several occasions. I was not allowed to do my job as a poll observer because the poll judge was determined to keep me from doing so by restricting my positioning within the poll site. I also observed collusion between those inside the poll and those outside the poll. For example, the poll judge received a call and then told the poll workers "the students are coming; get ready to register them."</p> <p>A few minutes later, bus loads of Shaw and St. Augustine students showed up, were quickly registered and voted. It was clear that this poll was being operated in a distinctly partisan fashion and my presence, as a poll observer for Bill Randall, was "unwelcome." The voting laws of NC are, in my opinion, are extremely vulnerable to voter fraud, and whether or not it is occurring doesn't alter the need to fix it, since the mere possibility of voter fraud weakens our confidence in voting results, and therefore undermines the integrity of elections and the officials who are elected.</p>
Mr. Adam Planty	Huntersville	<p>Voter fraud is an issue. I have worked for many years as a police officer in Charlotte. For over 10 years, I have worked in city housing and in an area that is predominately low income black families. Within that area is all of Charlotte's homeless shelters.</p> <p>Over those 10 years, I have encountered very few people without state photo identification or some other type of legitimate photo identification. Those who do not have a photo ID are assisted by Crisis Assistance in getting a photo ID. The statement's I have read and listened to about low income black's not having a photo ID to vote is incorrect. College's issue all students a school ID at no additional cost. So, there should be no arguments by any college students saying they don't have ID.</p> <p>Currently, all voter information is public record. All you have to do is go to the Board of Election website and enter a first and last name. All a person has to do is memorize another person's information and see when they voted last. Under our existing law, someone could do this and vote numerous times over and over throughout the state.</p> <p>This is not representative of the people. The law has to be changed. We go to foreign countries and stand guard at their voter sites to ensure voter fraud does not take place. Yet, we condone these types of practices in our country. We have dead people voting in this state. If any question arises about voting fraud, you have a duty to every citizen in this state to ensure measures are in place that a person votes only one time, and, that the person is who they say they are.</p> <p>Please support HB 351. Thank you for your time.</p>

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		Sincerely, Adam Planty (704) 724-5830
Jim Powers	Morganton	Legislation should be considered to raise the marginal standards provided in the General Statutes for a new incorporation. My recent experience opposing the incorporation of the Village of Lake James has repeatedly shown that a hand-ful of nonelected people very easily can gain the power of taxation, regulations;gerrymander boundaries for support;propose meaningless services and generally violate the rights of thousands of property owners within the boundaries,as well as all of the citizens of the entire County. I would be happy to expand if the Committee is interested. Jim Powers 828 584 4348
Ms. Amanda Prevette	Kernersville	I am very pleased to see that you are taking a firm position on preventing voter fraud in North Carolina. After reading an article that 117 foreign nationals were registered to vote and 37 actually DID vote in New Mexico elections, I feared that the same could be happening in my state. Thank you for considering a bill that would put an end to that fear. This bill must be passed in the best interest of the state.
Mr. Wesley Price	Knightdale	I beleive that everyone who votes should have to prove who they are through identification at the time of their vote. I also beleive that if you have to prove who you are prior to receiving government assistance, tax refunds, medical care or other government program assistance, the identification to vote should not be a problem. Why would we not want to protect this right. People give theirs all the time for it.
Mrs. Nan Puckett	Eastover	This bill is long overdue. Those who say it will limit the elderly & minorities are the same folks who have done just that for decades since their policies have virtually destroyed the black community & relegated the elderly to nursing homes since they encouraged women to work outside the home (even as they taxed families to death so mom had to go to work). No, this bill won't stop voter fraud but it'll be a good start. The argument that it makes it inconvenient doesn't hold water. My own now deceased parents had their own photo ID right up to their deaths at ages 91 & 89. Frankly, I'll be happy to assist anyone in need of acquiring one & I suspect I'm not alone. The democrats are just peeved that in future elections they might just lose one easy method of illegally stuffing the ballot box....vote yes on this bill--it's vital to the state & the nation.
Mr. Eric Pullen	Rocky Mount	This bill is much needed. Carrying a basic form of photo identification is a requirement for anyone who actually lives in the modern world. You must have one to cash a check or use a debit card. It's just a basic part of life. If the state is willing to provide a voter ID free of charge, then this law must proceed forward. Anyone who is willing to cash a check without seeing the ID of the person cashing it is doing so because they are operating in that shady zone outside of accepted morality. Voting is one of the most important things that we citizens can do, and to not be required to show my ID is kind of disheartening. This will prevent abuses and corruption, and the real reason that the Democrats fear this bill is because they are aware of the shaky voting records that occur in some of their strong holds. They are afraid that they will no longer be able to send a bus into the a neighborhood, pick up loads of people, and allow them to vote for the first times on election day. With a photo ID, we'll all be held accountable, making sure we are who we say we are. There is a provision within the bill that covers simple mistakes. If you forget your wallet it can be address quickly and easily. However, it prevents those that are going to abuse the system of voting by doing so illegally from getting into the polls. Thank you.
Mrs. Cathy Purvis	High Point	I am against HB 351. At a time when the state needs to save as much money as possible this would cause an un-necessary expense. This bill would cause a hardship on senior citizens and require a un-necessary obstacle to voting which is our basic right as an American.

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Ms. Page Redmon	Willow Spring	This bill does not address the issue of restoring confidence in government, and it is a slap in the face of the citizens to call it such. (Not closing the doors to the public during committee meetings might help restore some confidence, though.) Making it more difficult to vote and slowing down the process for citizens will decrease voter turnout, which is getting dangerously low. There wasn't much of a problem to begin with, and anyone who is dead set on fraud, whether it be in business or government, is going to find a way to work around any system that's set up. Don't deny people access to their own government. It's supposed to be of the people, by the people, for the people. Thanks for listening, S. Page Redmon
Mrs. Carolyn Reed	Raleigh	Confidence in government is at an all time low. House Bill 351 is necessary to insure only citizens of the United States are voting. Fraud in voting has been happening for far to long. It is time that a photo id be necessary to vote in this state and this country.
Ms. Jean Reed	Charlotte	As Chief Judge of my voting precinct for the last 6 years, I can assure that not once have I had to deal with fraud. I have reliable, consistent pollworkers who know many of the people who vote in our area. Our Election Board takes great pains to accurately and fairly run elections. this bill is unnecessary and unfair, because it most affects the poor, minorities, and seniors who do not have drivers licenses and would find getting a required ID a great difficulty. The effect of House Bill 351 would not be to improve faith in government, but to suppress the ability of many to vote. Please kill HB 351.
Mr. Paul Robert	Kill Devil Hills	This bill is am important 1st step in eliminating voter fraud. Please pass. Using utility bills, bank statements, etc. is fraught with danger.
Mrs. Rita Roberts	Southern Pines	Photo ID is the easiest way to assure basic integrity. \$10 is not a financial hardship for photo ID. Please support HB351 to restore confidence in Government.
Mrs. Melissa Robinsin	New Lindo	North Carolinians do not need to foot the bill for another layer of government that is unwarranted. Voter fraud is not a very big problem. Yet the people it would possibly silence is a big problem that we as a state should stand up for. Stop the madness. Let people vote. Focus time and money on policies that will actually help NC.
Mrs. Melissa Robinsin	New London	North Carolinians do not need to foot the bill for another layer of government that is unwarranted. Voter fraud is not a very big problem. Yet the people it would possibly silence is a big problem that we as a state should stand up for. Stop the madness. Let people vote. Focus time and money on policies that will actually help NC.
Mr. Herman Rooker	Raleigh	First of all, I'm a Dem and I think it is a great idea. I am 67 years old and I would go one more step. Everyone under 60 years of age should have to re-. It would also be a good idea if resgister to vote and they must have a photo ID and a birth certificate. All new people that registered should show a photo ID and a birth certificate. When you go to the polls to vote you should be required to show your voters card.
Nancy G. Rorie	Monroe	According to research by non-partisan organizations as well as the North Carolina Board of Elections, this bill is not needed as there is miniscule voter fraud in North Carolina. I assume the committee members have read the reports of Democracy North Carolina and the State BofE. Contrary to what Rep. Killian claims, no votes were cast in the names of dead people in Washington County. If enacted, it will require millions of dollars to implement, money that can be used to keep teachers in the classrooms, on early education of our children. etc. This is a problem that does not exist. Thank you.

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Elizabeth Sams	Franklinton	We simply MUST pass this bill to preserve the integrity of our voting process. The only people who would want it to fail, want people who are here ILLEGALLY to be able to vote. This one is truly a NO-BRAINER!
Mrs. Selma Schwartzbach	Pinehurst	The only thing needed to continue confidence in voting is not a picture ID but a dedicated page for signatures for each individual voter. The ability to match signatures over time is what is used in many states successfully. I have never heard anyone discuss this as an option. One question I have is "How will an absentee ballot voter demonstrate an ID card?" There is such a minimal % of the people voting who are devious enough to try fraud. It is not worth all this expense and time to change now.
D Scott	Spencer	Voter fraud has been identified in many nationwide elections in the recent past. This bill would ensure everyone would be treated equally and fairly. I am FOR this bill. I do have one concern. Section 4.1 states that anyone buying votes gets a Class 2 misdemeanor. I think the punishment should be more severe. In a small town or perhaps even in North Carolina, buying just a neighborhood might be enough to swing the election unfairly. Also, special emphasis should be put upon the Social Security number and make it the first bit of information required. That would be much more efficient than asking for a utility bill or bank statement unless a photo ID is required at the same time that the bill/statement is presented.
Monica Scott		The one thing that I will say is that if you make SB 362 into a law, you will have a huge majority of citizens who will not have any faith in the government, for if you can fail innocent three and four year olds with their right to a great educational start in life theres no telling what other corrupt dealings may evolve! shouldn't education lottery funds be spent on EDUCATION?
Ms. Katherine Seaton	Pittsboro	The title of this bill is totally ironic, as it would undermine confidence in government, not restore it. There is no evidence that voter identification is at all necessary in North Carolina, and in my experience as a poll worker and a voter, it would result in a negative voter experience in many ways. It would suppress voter turnout especially among the elderly, the ill, the poor, and the young, and it would also cost county governments money they don't have, to supply identification to those who knew they needed it in order to vote, and put a burden on county government to find the extra poll workers needed to deal with the much slower lines; even with extra workers, many people would undoubtedly give up waiting and not vote, because they had other responsibilities. Please do not change our voting system!
Richard Self	Cary	The bill appears to add additional bureaucracy to a process that has relatively few problems. I am opposed to this bill
Ms. Mary Sewell	Durham	Voter identification is already checked at registration. This would be a large state additional expense to "fix" a problem that doesn't exist.
Mr. Rod Shafer	Cary	The passing of a bill to require voter ID should be a "slam dunk" and well overdue. Every time I go to the bank or cash a check at a local merchant, they ask for a picture ID (or driver's license). The same is true for a passport and many other transactions including GETTING SERVICE AT MY OWN PHYSICIAN'S OFFICE OR A CLINIC. Given that background, there is no plausible reason to not require ID. My mother did not drive and she simply went to the local courthouse to get a picture ID---very simple. Quite frankly, if a person finds getting such an ID as either too difficult or "disenfranchising", they really should not vote anyway. This is not intended to be harsh--only to point out that one needs a certain amount of initiative to operate in a freedom loving Country.
Mr. Guy Shaneybrook	Edenton	It's about time the people footing the bills, are the one's voting on how our money is spent.....

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Mr. George Sharpley	Raleigh	<p>Are you aware of the statements being made by a chief memeber of SEIU concerning the May Day plan to collapse the financial centers and J.P. Morga Chase bank in order to bring down the USA and replace it with a different form of government. Please Restore Confidence in Government to me by answering ASAP.</p> <p>SUBJECT of VIDEO BELOW: "The Left's Economic Terrorism Playbook: The Chase Campaign by a Coalition of Unions, Community Groups, Lawmakers and Students to Take Down US Capitalism and Redistribute Wealth & Power."</p> <p>http://www.theblaze.com/stories/revealed-the-lefts-economic-terrorism-playbook-the-chase-campaign-for-a-coalition-of-unions-community-groups-lawmakers-and-students-to-take-down-us-capitalism-and-redistribute-wealth-power/</p>
Mrs. Melissa Sharpley	Raleigh	I sincerely hope this baill passes. It has been too long in coming.
Mrs. Geri Shea	Conover	I support passing HB351 requiring photo ID for voting cards. This bill guarantees the integrity of the voting process. Legal citizens do not object to showing valid photo IDs when required or asked.
Mr. Joe M. Simmons	Rutherfordton	How can any rational voter have confidence in our government when Senate Bill 8 is being pushed down the throats of the parents with children in public schools. Promoted in 1996 for the charter school movement as a means to positively affect changes in our educational system, SN8 now the plan to destroy the public schools, and without accountably at the local level. Who will pay the long term debt far all those schools purchased over the last ten years? In five years, public schools will have been reduced to the level of the intercity status found in NYC if left unchecked. The Confidence in Government question would be addressed again after 2012 when new members are turned out because of SN8.
Mr. William Simmons	Charlotte	Every since I first heard about this bill I wanted to think that it was a joke. It is still hard for me to believe that in 2011 such a measure is seriously being considered. I am of the opinion that the proponents of this bill evidently failed history during their school days. Are they not aware of the measures (Poll Taxes, etc.) that were sued to keep individuals form voting? This bill conjures of memories of dyas that should not be repeated. I lived through those times. This bill is wrong plain and simple. It should not be considered much less passed.
Sharon Simonetta	New Bern	Please pass legislation requiring voter ID. In our security conscience society it's hard to believe this is not required. Thank you.
Ms. Bonnie Smith	Asheville	<p>Will all registered voters be notified of the need for a picture ID? Will the notification explain where and how to apply for a picture? It will have to be free for those who can't afford to drive and, therefore do not have the usual Driver's License picture. Even with the best run program, cheaters can figure a way around it as they have in the past with Driver's licenses. (UNLESS OF COURSE, PRECINCTS CAN USE NCDOT equipment on site).</p> <p>If the voter is easily recognized by the staff in their voting district, require that under penalty of felony, a precinct worker can sign off on those who do not have ID's but who they do recognize from past elections.</p> <p>Have picture-taking ability and lamination on site at each voting precinct to provide a picture ID for the voter. Have the information loaded into a database for later comparison.</p> <p>Combine the above two and compare the new pics of all who have been signed off on!</p> <p>Y'all know darned well that lots of regular voters who are non-drivers will be turned away at the polls if you do not</p>

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		implement possibly costly (for now) measures such as I've suggested. SO GO WITH THE SIMPLEST: the sign off by the poll worker. Frankly, I'm concerned MORE about "ABSENTEE" ballots.
Mr. Harold Smith	Chocowinity	Pass this bill. We are required to present a picture id to make so many other less important transactions. What is the harm? Anything, within reason, that can be done to reduce voter fraud should be pursued.
Ms. PATRICIA TARBELL	ZEBULON	I was shocked the first time I voted in NC to learn that I did not need to present my drivers license or any form of ID to verify my identity. When a race within the state is close, the potential of voter fraud impacting the outcome of the race is monumental. I am all for making it easy for voters to get to the polls and place their votes, but I want them to prove they have the legal right to vote in the election.
Mr. John A. Turner	Fair Bluff	I strongly support passage of HB 351. I have read the bill in its entirety on the General Assembly web site. We NEED photo ID of voters in North Carolina and I encourage the committee to report favorably on this bill as written.
Mrs. Sybil Union	Fayetteville	I oppose this bill which discriminates against elderly voters, minority voters and young voters. We do not have flagrant voter fraud in this state. Prove to me this bill will restore confidence in Government. My lack of confidence is not related to voter fraud. If the system is not broken, there is no need to repair it. MY lack of confidence is related to a group of people who are not focusing on the important issues. Why is the Legislature not focusing on really important issues like balancing the budget, economic development, health related issues? Why does the Legislature waste time on nonessential legislation that is unnecessary? Don't forget, all of you are up for reelection in two years.
Ms. Diane Vannais	Pittsboro	At voter registration, identification must be shown..that seems adequate. HB 351 is an expensive way to solve a non-problem..when we have plenty of real fiscal problems! Don't waste our money! And what about absentee votes? Our soldiers overseas? Will they all have to notarized?? Don't waste our time and money!
Mrs. Cathy von Hassel-Davies	Graham	I believe this bill that address voter ID is wrong. The amount of voter fraud is minimal compared to voters in this state. Many people will not be able to afford a picture ID and thus preventing them from voting. There are cases here in Alamance County where people go to get food from Loaves & Fishes and are turned away because they do not have a photo ID. Please reconsider this.
Ms. susa williams	asheville	I disagree strongly with requiring voters to show a picture ID. I don't believe it is a big enough problem that requires this undue burden. Every voter does not drive and have a drivers license or sheriffs id. It is not a requirement for voting. I see it as a way of inhibiting the few voters that do take the time to show up to vote. I think the only purpose of this law is to lower the voting numbers even more. There is no other valid reason for this law. Why don't you make it a law requiring any one of voting age to vote? That would make more sense. We need more participation in the United States, not less. No, this is being done for one reason only and that is to lower voting numbers even more.....how un-American is that? You should be making it easier to vote, not harder. What's next...a literacy test?
Ms. Emily Winstead	Snow Hill	We definitely need to require photo identification for voting as well as anything else that citizens do. Why can't we offer a way for citizens to receive an inexpensive photo id if they do not have a driver's license?!
Mr. William Witherspoon	Cleveland	Pass this bill and any other bill that helps reign in ILLEGAL immigration! Start cracking down on ILLEGAL immigration in NC. I have no problem with any immigrant coming to the US LEGALLY. However with the job market as such and me being a truck driver I see daily many workers which I have no doubt that some are here illegally. These jobs should be

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		going to LEGAL immigrants and American workers.
Mr. John Woltz	Winston-Salem	<p>We simply must require proper identification from those who wish to vote when they ask to vote. Anything else is an invitation to fraud and abuse. We have to present a legitimate photo ID to cash a check, check into a hotel, travel, enter certain government properties, check out a book and virtually everything else so what harm can it do to ask the same of those who vote? Absolutely none and any other action or lack thereof is totally irresponsible. Please support House Bill 351. Thank you,</p> <p>John Elliott Woltz, Jr.</p>
Dr. Charles Wood	Durham	This bill promotes undue burden on citizens, especially those at most risk of not being properly represented and/or those who have perhaps been historically underrepresented. I am strongly opposed to this bill as it is written, including its misleading title.
Perry Woods	Raleigh	<p>This is an expensive non-solution to voter fraud. Most occurs in Absentee balloting, and a photo ID will not solve most the issues supporters of photo ID expressed concern about. Far more examples of fake ID's in NC than impersonating voter fraud in person. How many teachers do we lay off to fund 'security theater'.</p> <p>As well, you may consider unintended consequences. This will primarily disenfranchise seniors, the only growing demographic group for the GOP.</p>
Mr. Michael Wyche	Indian Trail	<p>I do not support this bill. Why do we need to spend over a million dollars the State does not have in order to stop a problem, no one has proven exists? It seems hypocritical to call this Bill "Restore Confidence in Government" when our Government is saying we don't have money to support our teachers but will spend the money to prevent those people without a photo ID from voting. Have you estimated the cost of preventing voter fraud from those people who use forged voter ID cards? This does nothing to restore my confidence in government.</p> <p>Sincerely I thank you all for your service, but please go back to doing the people's work instead of wasting time fulfilling petty partisan issues.</p>
Mr. Mark Yokley	Mills River	This should definitely be done to prevent voter fraud and to make sure that only citizens vote and vote once.
Mr. Fred Zahran	Fayetteville	<p>First of all, let's be perfectly honest about this bill.....it is NOT an effort to "restore public confidence" in voting. It is nothing more than an attempt by the Republican Party to disenfranchise and negate the poor, the minorities, the legal immigrants, etc. effort to vote. This is happening nationwide as the Republican Party continues to do everything possible to ensure their continued dominance in their efforts to "rule" rather than "govern". There is nothing more abhorrent to a republican than an open, free, fair election unencumbered by lobbyists and corporate slush funds. Any means available to them to deter those who historically vote Democratic will be used, and this bill is simply another ruse for them to keep law abiding Americans from the polls. If this bill passes, I predict that the furor over it will be so great that a concerted effort, one I will gladly join and support, to rid this state of every legislator, from either party, who votes for it. This is a disgrace to free elections, and if the republican party was so concerned about "fair" elections they would have supported the investigations into the gross fraud that permeated the 2000 and 2004 national elections. I challenge anyone to legitimize this bill with factual arguments that don't border on bigotry, racism, or gross partisanship. It can't be done.</p>

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