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Texas Voter ID Bill Passes out of House

Austin, TX - Wednesday the Texas House of Representatives took a bold move to restore the integrity of the election process by passing Senate Bill 14, the Texas Voter ID act. The core of this bill stems from a need to return the confidence of Texans in the fact that their vote counts. This legislation also ensures fairness to the electoral system and a commitment to Texans of secure and accessible ballots. As Representative Flynn stated, "After unwarranted delays by the Democrats that went against the will of Texans, I am very excited to be part of a process that allows the integrity of the system to be restored and the faith and trust of all Texans to be justified."

There is a widespread lack of confidence by the public in our voting system. Texans every day present identification to obtain a fishing license, to open a bank account, to board a plane, to rent a car or even just pick up a prescription at the pharmacy. SB 14 is a move to restore that lack of confidence by just asking Texans to say you are who you say you are before casting a vote. This legislation sounds simple and certainly would be non intrusive to the daily lives of Texans but liberals have worked hard to defeat this legislation claiming it would cause many not to vote. To accommodate this con-

cern the legislation clearly provides exceptions for the elderly, the disabled, those with religious objections to photographs and the poor even requiring the Department of Public Safety to issue free Identification Cards to those who cannot afford it. Still, liberals say this was not enough. Since this legislation clearly provides many accommodations you have to wonder exactly who would not be given access to vote and a secure ballot.

Numerous states have similar laws and in the two states with the strictest Voter Identification standards, Georgia and Indiana, turnout has actually increased. The legislation complies with the Supreme Court decision by offsetting burdens by providing free access to identifications, allows for provisional and absentee ballots, ensures that there are provisions for the disabled and elderly and additionally ensures that the process to obtain an identification is no more burdensome than the usual act of voting. "It is important that legislators work to combat fraud throughout Texas. It is our duty and our constituents demand one person, one vote." Stated Flynn. This common sense approach now moves to a conference committee to agree on all the language and then on to the Governor.

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