

**Testimony of Attorney Cliff Arnebeck before the
Ohio House of Representatives State Government and Elections Committee
Monday, 12/15/08, 2:00 p.m., Statehouse Rm 122**

Thank you Chairman Daniels and members of the committee for the opportunity to submit written testimony on SB 380. I will be available to testify and answer questions from the committee at today's hearing on this bill.

I offer this testimony as a public-interest attorney who is familiar with the problem of fraud in our elections and has experience combating it. I share with the sponsor of this bill a concern about election fraud in the state of Ohio and a sense of urgency in regard to addressing such fraud. However, I differ with the sponsor in regard to the kind of election fraud we face and how we should address it. Therefore, I urge you not to recommend this bill for passage by the Ohio House of Representatives.

We are very fortunate to have Secretary of State who sought and performed this office in the finest tradition of a long line of Republican and Democratic Ohio Secretaries of State in a non-partisan manner. She has been faithful to her oath for this high office and her promise for fairness in its administration. She has convened a summit, chaired by a highly qualified non-partisan academic leader, to assist us in building upon her success in the 2008 election in advancing the quality of elections in Ohio as a model for other states to follow.

Contrary to the unfounded concerns over fraud by voters addressed in SB 380, the real problem of fraud in our elections, that has been well documented from 2000 through 2006, needs to be addressed. The evidence has a national scope, and therefore will require the cooperation of public officials, particularly our law enforcement officers--federal, state and local-- and citizens around the country to confront it.

Because Ohio was at the center of both the state prong of the concerted attack upon judicial integrity and constitutional government in 2000, and the federal prong in the 2004 Ohio stolen election, our state is well positioned to lead in providing the public interest response. Failing to respond to this real threat is not a prudent option for many reasons. If we fail to hold these perpetrators of election fraud accountable, they will: 1) obstruct our restoration of the rule of law, 2) continue to plot new election frauds and 3) under the cloak of civility, have a better chance of succeeding again.

Respectfully submitted,

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