



AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF UTAH FOUNDATION, INC
355 NORTH 300 WEST, SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84103
(801) 521-9862 PHONE • (801) 532-2850 FAX
ACLU@ACLUUTAH.ORG • WWW.ACLUUTAH.ORG

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 27, 2008

CONTACT: Marina Lowe, Staff Attorney
(801) 521-9862

The ACLU of Utah Urges Senate to Reject Bill Impacting Voting Rights

Salt Lake City - In a letter regarding SB 210, "Proof of Citizenship Required to Vote," distributed to the Utah Senate today, The American Civil Liberties Union of Utah strongly urged senators to defeat the bill, which would create barriers to voter participation by those who are lawfully entitled to vote in this state.

"As even the sponsor of this bill has indicated, SB 210 is merely "precautionary," as there is no evidence to support the practice of voting by undocumented immigrants in Utah," stated Marina Lowe, staff attorney for the ACLU of Utah. "Unfortunately, the lesson learned by Arizona after enacting similar legislation is that large numbers of voter registration forms from U.S. citizens were rejected because they lacked the documents needed to prove their citizenship. The right to vote of Utahns is too fundamental to be sacrificed in the name of a hypothetical harm."

The ACLU of Utah's main concerns with the bill include:

- There is no evidence that voting by undocumented immigrants is a problem within the state of Utah.
- Senate Bill 210 runs contrary to the mandates of the National Voting Registration Act (NVRA).
- Senate Bill 210 is largely unnecessary and does nothing to protect the integrity of the election process or assure the right of citizens to vote.
- Many Utah citizens do not possess the documents needed to satisfy Senate Bill 210's requirements to prove citizenship. These documents can be difficult and costly to obtain and may constitute a form of poll tax, which is unconstitutional under the 24th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

For more information on this bill and to read the ACLU of Utah's letter to the senate, please visit www.acluutah.org