



April 28, 2009

The Honorable Todd Smith
Chairman, House Committee on Elections
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768-2910

Dear Chairman Smith:

We are writing to express our full support for HB 125 by Betty Brown, the Voter ID bill, and respectfully ask that you give HB 125 the opportunity to be heard on the House Floor. As you are aware, HB 125 has 58 authors and co-authors because it is one of the most important bills that must be debated this session.

➤ **The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled Photo ID is constitutional.**

The Supreme Court ruled "the universally applicable requirements of Indiana's voter-identification law are eminently reasonable." While an ID requirement may place a burden on voters, the Court concluded that "burdens... arising from life's vagaries, however, are neither so serious nor so frequent as to raise any question about the constitutionality of [photo ID requirements]."

➤ **This legislation is workable because of widespread use of government-issued IDs.**

The office of the secretary of state reports that there are 12.7 million registered voters in Texas as of the March 2008 primary elections. According to the Department of Public Safety, there are more than 14 million valid Texas driver's licenses and almost another 4 million valid Texas ID cards issued to Texans over age 18. Currently, there are 5.3 million more government-issued identification cards possessed by the voting age population than there are registered voters. If there are any voters without a government-issued ID or cannot afford one, we support providing those IDs free of charge.

➤ **There is widespread public support for Voter ID.**

In a July 2008 poll conducted by the University of Texas, seventy percent of Texans supported a voter ID requirement, with 52% strongly supporting the proposal; 68% of the African Americans polled supported photo ID, and 65% of the Hispanics/Latinos polled supported photo ID. Polls by Rasmussen (77%

support; 2006) and the Texas Conservative Coalition (81% support; December 2008) confirm these findings. In the 2008 Republican Primary, 93% of all Republican voters supported Proposition 1, to require voter ID to cast ballots in elections. Our voters are demanding action on voter ID.

Elections are the bedrock of a representative democracy. Elections free of fraud are imperative to maintain public trust in the integrity of our political system.

Please work with us to get HB 125 to the House Floor.

Sincerely,



Representative Wayne Christian
House District 9 – Center



Representative Dan Flynn
House District 2 – Van



Representative Warren Chisum
House District 88 – Pampa



Representative Phil King
House District 61 – Weatherford



Representative Linda Harper-Brown
House District 105 – Irving



Representative Tan Parker
House District 63 – Flower Mound



Representative Jodie Laubenberg
House District 89 – Parker



Representative Geanie Morrison
House District 30 – Victoria



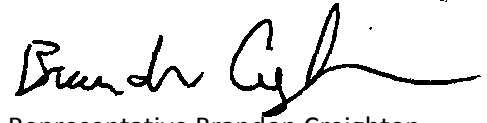
Representative Larry Taylor
House District 24 – Friendswood



Representative Leo Berman
House District 6 – Tyler



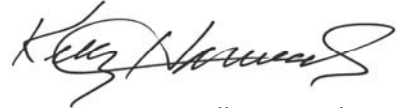
Representative Bill Callegari
House District 132 – Katy



Representative Brandon Creighton
House District 16 – Conroe



Representative Ken Paxton
House District 70 – McKinney



Representative Kelly Hancock
House District 91 – North Richland Hills



Representative Angie Chen-Button
House District 112 – Garland



Representative Jim Jackson
House District 115 – Carrollton

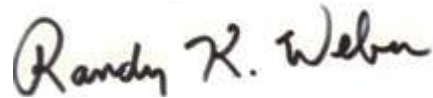
Representative Allen Fletcher
House District 130 – Tomball



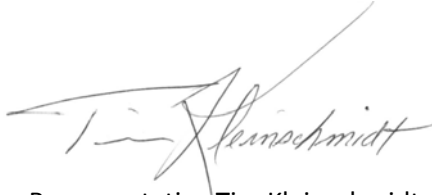
Representative Charles "Doc" Anderson
House District 56 – Waco



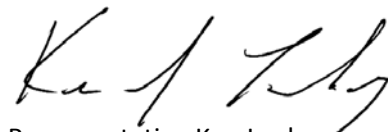
Representative John Davis
House District 129 – Houston



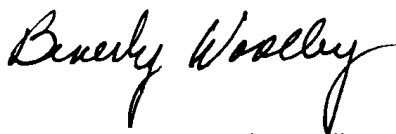
Representative Randy Weber
House District 29 - Pearland



Representative Tim Kleinschmidt
House District 17 – Lexington



Representative Ken Legler
House District 144 – Pasadena



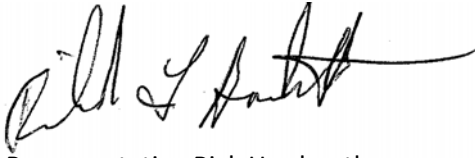
Representative Beverly Woolley
House District 136 – Houston



Representative Myra Crownover
House District 64 – Denton



Representative Dan Gattis
House District 20 – Georgetown



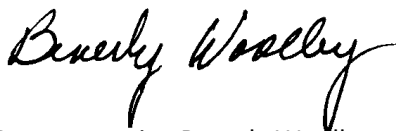
Representative Rick Hardcastle
House District 68 – Vernon



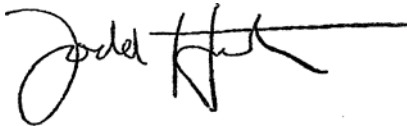
Representative Mark Shelton
House District 97 – Fort Worth



Representative Dwayne Bohac
House District 138 – Houston



Representative Beverly Woolley
House District 136 – Houston



Representative Todd Hunter
House District 32 – Corpus Christi