



ASSISTANT MINORITY LEADER
SHIRLEY SMITH

21ST DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

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Senator Smith Speaks Out Against Photo ID Requirement

Columbus – State Senator Shirley Smith (D-Cleveland) strongly opposes the photo ID requirements that Senate Republicans inserted today into voting reform legislation (Substitute House Bill 194). Senator Smith, the ranking Democrat on the Government Oversight and Reform Committee, issued the following statement in response:

“This bill is an outrageous attack on voting rights that so many Americans have fought and died for. There is nothing more fundamental in our democracy than the ability to freely exercise the right to vote without unnecessary and excessive interference from the government.

“Substitute House Bill 194 blatantly crosses the line from voting reform to voter suppression. This legislation will disenfranchise African Americans, senior citizens, college students and any other Ohioan who doesn’t have a state photo ID. It is very sad that Republicans in the General Assembly are more concerned about rigging the system to win the next election than they are about protecting fundamental rights for all Ohioans.

“Prior to the Voting Rights Act of 1965, it was common practice in some states to deny African Americans and other minorities the right to vote through literacy tests and poll taxes. If this legislation becomes law it will turn back the hands of time by instituting a photo ID requirement that is nothing less than a modern day poll tax.”