



AFRICAN AMERICAN COALITION OF INDIANAPOLIS – AACI

April 8, 2021

Hon. Representative Timothy Wesco
Indiana House
Elections and Apportionments Committee
200 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

The African American Coalition of Indianapolis, Indianapolis Urban League and Indiana Black Expo write to oppose SB 353 as written, and we ask that this testimony be included in the record of the hearing.

We are very concerned about any provision added to Indiana Code or conceived by legislators that would reduce access to voting in any way.

The right of citizens to vote is a bedrock constitutional principle that must be safeguarded. Providing a provision that prohibits (1) instituting, increasing, or expanding vote by mail or absentee vote by mail” is not what voters sent legislators to the Indiana General Assembly to do.

We also have serious concerns about the underlying public policy of not allowing a governor to change “the time, place or manner of holding an election” during a disaster. Circumscribing any future governor’s authority in this regard is not sound public policy.

We also remain concerned about the use of both driver’s license and Social Security numbers in the application process given the possibility for confusion within the system.

We oppose SB 353 because both in its totality as well as with respect to each of the individual provisions the underlying public policy does not improve access to enfranchisement but rather diminishes and potentially threatens access to being able to cast a ballot.

Sincerely,

Willis Bright
African American Coalition of Indianapolis

Tony Mason
Indianapolis Urban League

Tanya McKinzie
Indiana Black Expo, Inc.
