AAUW-NE Action Alert: LR292CA, A Solution in Search of a Problem From: Liz Rea, President, AAUW-NE February 25, 2020

On Thursday, February 27, 2020, the Nebraska Legislature's Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee will consider LR292CA, a constitutional amendment to require verification of identity prior to voting. AAUW-NE strongly opposes this measure just as it has every other voter ID measure for the past eight years. Members are asked to email the members of the committee to urge them to vote against advancing LR292CA to the floor for debate.

Using your own words, please make your message brief and to the point using some of the following points to make your argument:

- No one can point to a problem involving voter impersonation fraud in Nebraska's electoral history. Voter ID is a solution in desperate search of a problem.
- Our state constitution has enshrined the right to vote without burden. It states that all elections shall be free, and there shall be no hindrance or impediment to the right of a <u>qualified voter</u> to exercise the elective franchise.
- Nebraskans should not have to bear the cost of presenting a current, government-issued ID at their polling places simply to receive a ballot. Doing so amounts to a poll tax which long ago was outlawed by the courts.
- Making the IDs "free" would be an expensive and unnecessary solution to a nonexistent problem. The most recent failed voter ID measure to be considered in Nebraska in 2018 was estimated to cost \$2.9 million to start and about \$750,000 to maintain.
- Voter ID laws disproportionately impact low-income, elderly, disabled, young, and rural Nebraskans.
- Voter ID measures do not result in good policymaking or more secure elections. Instead, they disenfranchise otherwise eligible voters.
- This proposed constitutional amendment, just like its failed predecessors, is expensive and unnecessary. Voter ID is not a Nebraska value.
- At a time when confidence in our democracy is shaken, our state leaders should be looking for ways to bring more Nebraskans into civic life, not making it harder for them to vote.

Following are the names for each of the members of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee along with their email addresses. Identify yourself as a constituent when appropriate. Thank you for taking action to urge them to vote <u>no</u> to advancing LR292CA to the floor for debate.

- Senator Tom Brewer, Chair: <u>tbrewer@leg.ne.gov</u>
- Senator Carol Blood: cblood@leg.ne.gov
- Senator Matt Hansen: <u>mhansen@leg.ne.gov</u>
- Senator Mike Hilgers: <u>mhilgers@leg.ne.gov</u>
- Senator Megan Hunt: <u>mhunt@leg.ne.gov</u>
- Senator Rick Kolowski: rkolowski@leg.ne.gov
- Senator Andrew La Grone: <u>alagrone@leg.ne.gov</u>
- Senator John Lowe: jlowe@leg.ne.gov