



WRITTEN TESTIMONY AGAINST HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5
SUBMITTED TO THE IDAHO SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MARCH 19, 2024 ON BEHALF OF
THE AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF IDAHO

Chairman Guthrie and Committee Members,

The ACLU and ACLU of Idaho are firmly opposed to House Joint Resolution 5 (HJR 5). This needless piece of legislation appears to provide a solution to a fictitious problem, it is redundant, it would be costly, and it is frivolous.

The fiscal note states that if passed, HJR 5 could cost hundreds of thousands in taxpayer dollars. The state should not **spend \$200,000 on legislation** that re-states elector qualifications. What's more: voter and voting fraud is exceedingly rare in Idaho. If passed, HJR 5 would not make our elections safer.

In fact, the bill language itself would likely have the effect of stoking anti-immigrant and racist sentiment in our communities. By re-stating that *only* United States citizens are eligible to vote – a stipulation in both the United States and Idaho constitution, the bill seems to suggest non-citizens are voting in our elections. Redundantly excluding noncitizens, then, is unnecessary and could lead to harm, particularly to our Latinx and immigrant communities.

We respectfully urge you to reject this harmful bill.

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