



March 21, 2022

**Georgia Senate
Committee on Ethics
Testimony in Opposition to HB 1464**

Campaign Legal Center writes to express our strong opposition to HB 1464. The nearly 40-page omnibus bill would make it harder for nonprofit organizations and well-meaning volunteers to donate food and water to voters waiting in long lines at the polls, give the Georgia Bureau of Investigations (GBI) unprecedented and unnecessary power over Georgia's elections, and decrease the number of voting machines available at each precinct.

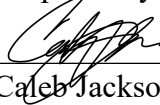
HB 1464 also includes provisions that make it easier for partisan bad actors to engage in third-party election audits, which could delay the finalization of election results and undermine voters' confidence and trust in the accuracy of Georgia's elections. The bill invites partisan poll watchers into the absentee ballot tabulation process, which will slow down the counting of absentee ballots and put unwarranted pressure on election volunteers who faced more threats and intimidation than ever before during the 2020 and 2021 election cycles.

While HB 1464 does include a couple of positive changes, including a provision that revises the misleading disclaimer that non-government organizations are required to include on each absentee ballot application they send out, those few improvements do *not* outweigh the harm that will be caused by the bill's other provisions.

Less than two months ago, Governor Brian Kemp promised that the state would not be passing any more election law changes this year. If this Committee passes and Governor Kemp signs HB 1464 into law, you all will be taking steps to make voting in Georgia harder for the second year in a row and deteriorate Georgia voters' confidence in the state's elections. You will also be breaking the promise that Governor Kemp made to Peach State voters in January.

For these reasons, we strongly all members of the Senate Committee on Ethics to vote against HB 1464.

Respectfully submitted,



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