

From: [Ann Stephens](#)
To: [Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee](#)
Subject: Submission : Electoral Reform Bill
Date: Thursday, 16 January 2014 10:56:26 AM

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am concerned about the attempt to introduce laws that would make it harder to vote.

These laws seem to copy the USA laws enacted by the Tea Party to ensure that youth and people without "proper ID" cannot vote.

-Governments have a responsibility to make it easy for people to vote.

-Can the committee guarantee that these laws won't lead to voter disenfranchisement?

-The proposed laws could have discriminatory effects on who is, and who isn't, able to vote - and the worst impact will likely be on those who live in remote communities, those who are elderly, young, disabled, homeless, or just move house frequently. Does the Committee know how what percentage of people from these groups may not be able to cast a vote if the laws are introduced?

-The onerous process of checking everyone's IDs will make lines to vote longer.

In my electorate, the average time to vote is 1 to 2 hours waiting in line!!!!

These times will now blow out even further ensuring that those who are ill, old or impatient do not vote.

-Imagine how many more staff will be required to do this, and the cost in time and money.

-The Attorney-General claims these laws will reduce 'voter impersonation' but there is no evidence of 1) voter impersonation and 2) these proposals will reduce it, or 3) voter impersonation has ever made a difference in any election.

He is also claiming USA figures (that were discredited!).

Please

Ann Stephens

