Alabama Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights
Releases Summary of Testimony: Access to Voting in Alabama

Montgomery, AL – The Alabama Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights has released a summary of testimony on voting regulation gathered in Montgomery at a briefing conducted by the Committee in February. The impetus for the study was United States Supreme Court’s decision in Shelby County, AL v. Holder, the landmark case regarding the constitutionality of two provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Among the topics included in the testimony are voter identification requirements, voter roll purging policies, fair access to the ballot box, and felon disenfranchisement. The candor of witnesses at the hearing revealed that even as members of panels disagreed about the reality of voting in Alabama, they were committed to open and frank discussion about access to the ballot. The summary of testimony is a product of those discussions.

Committee Chair Jenny Carroll said, “As the committee continues to work on our report, I am hopeful that the attached summary of testimony will provide insights into the effect of voting regulation on the citizens of Alabama. Our committee was fortunate to hear from a diverse array of government officials, voting experts, activists, and citizens. Their testimony, and materials gathered in preparation for and since the hearing, describe not only the regulations in place in Alabama, but offer valuable perspectives on the methods of enforcement of these regulations and the effect of such regulations on particular populations in our state.”

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