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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 18, 2011 Contact: Chris Ahmuty, ACLU-Wisconsin, 272-4032, ext. 213

## ACLU URGES WISCONSIN SENATE TO REJECT UNNECESSARY PHOTO ID BILL WITHOUT REASONABLE IMPROVEMENTS

MILWAUKEE -- Today, Christopher Ahmuty, Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Wisconsin issued the following statement in response the Wisconsin Senate refusal to consider improvements to a bill that will require otherwise eligible voters to present a photo ID in order to vote:

The ACLU of Wisconsin believes that Wisconsin is poised to wrongly and unconstitutionally disfranchise many eligible voters.

In a letter today to Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald (R-Juneau), Chris Ahmuty mentioned two examples of amendments that the Senate majority tabled. One amendment would have clarified how to proceed when the voter's name on his/her photo ID and poll list are not exactly identical. Another amendment would have created a 'fail safe' provision allowing indigent person who are completely unable to obtain a photo ID to vote.

Ahmuty's letter chided Fitzgerald for ignoring ways to improve the bill. He wrote, "a better version of the bill will mitigate the harm this legislation will cause."

Ahmuty's letter is attached.

The ACLU of Wisconsin has approximately 6,500 members who support its efforts to defend the civil liberties and civil rights of all Wisconsin residents. For more on the work of the ACLU of Wisconsin, visit our <u>webpage</u>. You can also get news and opinion on civil liberties in Wisconsin on our <u>Cap City Liberty blog</u>. Find us on <u>Facebook and Twitter at ACLUMadison and ACLUofWisconsin</u>.

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