**Testimony of Kathy Griesmyer**

**SB 1297aa: Authorizing Electronic Voter Registration**

**Before Senate House Affairs Committee**

**March 09, 2016**

The ACLU of Idaho stands before you today in support of SB 1297aa, which intends to authorize electronic voter registration in the state of Idaho.

SB 1297aa will bring voter registration into the 21st century and ensure that voting is as convenient as possible, further guaranteeing that all Idahoans who want to cast a ballot are able to do so.

Creating an online voter registration system is convenient for voters and helps reduce errors in processing voter registration. Voters can simply enter their own information rather than relying on election officials to decipher potentially illegible handwriting and incomplete information. An online system is also secure and bolsters election integrity. Automatic cross-checking with other state databases, such as the Idaho Transportation Department, ensures that online voter registration is as secure, if not more, than the current paper-based system.

With the amended reference to §34-1114 under section 34-409(2)(b), which outlines provisions for complying with the State’s personal identification requirements for voting, it ensures that voters who have electronically registered to vote are able to utilize the Personal Identification Affidavit on Election Day just the same as voters who register to vote by mail. This added amendment further bolsters the State’s commitment in ensuring access to the polls for all eligible voters in Idaho.

We thank the bill sponsors for bringing this much needed legislation to modernize Idaho’s voter registration laws. Through the authorization of an online voter registration system, and the added amendment to ensure the voters’ right to utilize the Personal Identification Affidavit, Idahoans will see their voting rights greatly expanded and protected. For these reasons, we support SB 1297aa and ask for your yes vote in moving the legislation forward to the House floor.