NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PROCEDINGS OF FLOOR SESSION

In Raleigh, North Carolina
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Representative Samuelson a question.

SPEAKER TILLIS: Representative Samuelson, does the lady yield?

REP. SAMUELSON: I yield.

SPEAKER TILLIS: The lady yields.

REP. LUEBKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Representative Samuelson. I asked you this in the Finance Committee, and I know that there is sociologically -- and there's a difference between Duke students and NCCU students, but I just can't understand, and I want you to again explain why I should tell a constituent who's from NCCU that you're okay, you can run on down with that ID and vote, but tell a student from Duke that he or she can't do that. I just don't understand why you drew the line where you did. It seems to me, you could just as easily draw the line and include all students as being eligible with their student ID's to vote. What's -- what's wrong with that?

REP. SAMUELSON: We could have drawn the line a number of places. We chose the cleanest and clearest way to do it was to draw it on government-issued ID's, and that we would do everything we could to make sure that they had access to those ID's, should they need them.
don't want to match wits with them. But I don't want to leave the unimpression that has been made that there are 89,000 students that will be disenfranchised if this amendment is not adopted. There are very few college students in this state, no matter where they go to school, that don't have a driver's license. When you go to vote, you show a State-issued ID, which is for all practical purposes a driver's license.

Now, there are going to be a handful of students, for various reasons, that don't have a driver's license, and in that instance, then they can show their student ID. But for most parts, don't be fooled into thinking there are going to be 89,000 students that are going to be disenfranchised. The vast majority of them have a driver's license.

SPEAKER TILLIS: Representative Murry, please state your purpose.

REP. MURRY: To debate the amendment.

SPEAKER TILLIS: The gentleman is recognized to debate the amendment.

REP. MURRY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would ask members to oppose the amendment. And there is a rational basis, that Representative
Avila just articulated, with regards to requiring
government-issued voter ID's, and that's the
standard. It's a rational basis. It's the lowest
constitutional standard that the Supreme Court
applies. If there's any rational basis by which
we -- by which we make this decision, it's viewed
in the light most favorable to the deciding body,
which is the General Assembly. And so, from a
constitutional basis, it's the lowest standard, the
lowest hurdle that we have to overcome.

And we have a rational basis. It's a
government-issued photo ID that we're requiring.
That's the standard. And so, I would ask members
to oppose the amendment and to keep the rational
basis of our law.

SPEAKER TILLIS: Representative Adams,
please state your purpose.

REP. ADAMS: To speak a second time.

SPEAKER TILLIS: The lady is recognized
to debate the amendment a second time.

REP. ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ladies and gentlemen, I
would call your attention to the six -- 36
independent colleges and universities on the list
that I gave you. Many of those are in your
to vote for the bill.

SPEAKER TILLIS: Further discussion, further debate? If not, the question before the House is the passage of House Committee Substitute Number 3 to House Bill 589 as amended on its second reading. All in favor, vote aye; all opposed, vote no. The Clerk will open the vote.

(Electronic vote recorded.)

SPEAKER TILLIS: All members wishing to record, please do so at this time. The Clerk will lock the machine and record the vote. 80 having voted in the affirmative and 36 in the negative, the House Committee Substitute Number 3 for House Bill 589 as amended has passed its second reading, and without objection, will be read a third time.

CLERK: The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts.

SPEAKER TILLIS: Further discussion, further debate? If not, the question before the House is the passage of House Committee Substitute Number 3 to House Bill 589 as amended on its third reading. All those in favor, vote aye; all those opposed, vote no. The Clerk will open the vote.

(Electronic vote recorded.)

SPEAKER TILLIS: The Clerk will lock the
machine and record the vote. 81 having voted in
the affirmative and 36 in the negative, the House
Committee Substitute to House Bill 589 as amended
has passed its third reading. The bill will be
engrossed and sent to the Senate.

Ladies and gentlemen of the House, the
chair is happy to extend the courtesies of the
gallery to a group of friends from my neck of the
woods: Pat Murray, Linda Angel, Eve Gregg, Randy
Long and Liz McDowell. Please stand and let us
welcome you.

(Applause.)

SPEAKER TILLIS: Representative
Richardson, please state your purpose. The House
will come to order.

REP. RICHARDSON: Personal privilege,
please.

SPEAKER TILLIS: The lady is recognized
for a point of personal privilege. The House will
come to order.

REP. RICHARDSON: I would just like to
announce that my IA was taken out today on
emergency. She's at -- well, she was. I don't
know what the status is now, but she was taken to
WakeMed North. So, we ask your prayers for her,