



NEWS RELEASE

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Nebraska Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights Announces Public Meeting: Civil Rights and Nebraska's 2009 Legislative Bill 403

The Nebraska Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will convene a series of panel discussions on potential disparate impact of Nebraska's 2009 Legislative Bill 403, on the basis of race or color. This legislation requires Nebraska residents to verify lawful presence prior to participating in any state services; it also mandates the use of the federal employment verification system, E-Verify, prior to hiring any state worker or contractor.

The discussions will take place on Wednesday July 29th, 2015 and Wednesday August 12, 2015, from 2:00-3:30pm, Central Daylight Time via web conference. Both meetings are open to the public.

To listen to the meeting by phone:

- July 29th
 - Dial: 888-364-3109
 - Enter Conference ID # 6261793
- August 12th
 - Dial: 888-329-8877
 - Enter conference ID # 1830572

To join the conference online, please contact the Commission's Midwest Regional Office to request an access link at (312) 353-8311 or email Melissa Wojnaroski at mwojnaroski@usccr.gov. Online space is limited and will be provided on a first come, first served basis. Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations should contact the Midwest Regional office prior to the meeting.

The Committee will hear testimony from community members, advocates, legal professionals, and government officials regarding the intent and impact of this legislation on Nebraska residents. Committee Chair Dr. Jonathan Benjamin-Alvarado said, "This is a long overdue discussion of the impact of LB403 on Nebraska's immigrant community and the extent to which state law, in this instance, may have caused unintended consequences and harm to a specific group of Nebraska residents."

At the conclusion of each panel discussion, phone lines will be opened for additional comment and testimony from the public. Comments will be received in either English or Spanish. The Committee will also accept written testimony submitted to mwojnaroski@usccr.gov by August 31, 2015. The Nebraska Committee will issue its findings and recommendations in an advisory memorandum to the Commission after all testimony has been received.

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is an independent, bipartisan agency charged with studying and advising the President and Congress on civil rights matters and issuing a federal civil rights enforcement report. For information about the reports and meetings of the Commission and its State Advisory Committees, visit <http://www.usccr.gov>.

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