

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**STATEMENT ISSUED TODAY FROM DEE DAWKINS-HAIGLER, CANDIDATE  
FOR GA SECRETARY OF STATE ON THE "APPALLING" HOUSE BILL 1464  
PASSED BY THE GA HOUSE**

ATLANTA, GEORGIA — "HB 1464 is appalling and poses a serious threat to the safety of Georgia's citizens. There's really no other way to describe this piece of legislation that's clearly designed to further suppress the Black vote and intimidate voters and election workers all over our state," said Dawkins-Haigler upon learning that the bill had passed out of the House on crossover day. One particularly oppressive feature of the bill, according to Dawkins-Haigler, allows the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) to unilaterally investigate suspected "voter fraud" without the summons and oversight of the Secretary of State's office. "This bill essentially militarizes our election process."

Dawkins-Haigler related her experience with the *Quitman 10+2* fiasco that illustrates how this new bill will be used and the enormous negative impact it will have on voters, candidates for elected office and the general public. "In 2011, when I was a state representative, Black women in Quitman, Georgia flipped the white, Republican School Board primarily because of extraordinary organizing, and new access to absentee ballots which provided easier voting for this small town of about 4,000 residents. The resulting retaliation by the GOP was astounding. The women were arrested and charged with 120 separate felony counts of voter fraud. Brian Kemp, then secretary of state, arrested Nancy

Dennard, the lead organizer, 11 of her political allies AND the Democratic Black women who had been elected. The bottom line to this racist, shameful episode in Georgia history is that the Republicans have relied on the threat of voter fraud to enact laws that make it especially difficult for poor, non-white disenfranchised citizens to vote in Georgia. HB 1464 is another more egregious attempt to repeat Quitman 10 +2."

This legislation is expected to be loudly denounced by the public, voting rights organizations. As well, it's expected to be legally challenged in the courts. Dawkins-Haigler is calling for the voters to make their voices heard against this bill by contacting their legislators and Governor Kemp.

About Dee Dawkins-Haigler

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