

The war on the poor continues | Arkansas Blog

<http://www.arktimes.com/ArkansasBlog/archives/2013/04/02/the-war-on-the-poor-continues>

April 3, 2013

Max Brantley

Some odds and ends to start the day.

* **THE WAR ON THE POOR THROUGH PAYDAY LENDING:** Is it really a surprise that a gang of Republican lawmakers is trying again to open the legal door to bring the blood-suckday **payday lending industry** back into Arkansas? What's surprising is that the bill doesn't enjoy the endorsement of every single member of the **Republican Caucus**, which just voted to punish the poor with a new Voter ID Act aimed precisely at discouraging the poor disproportionately from getting to the polls.

The bill, SB 900, the work of so-called ultraconservative **Sen. Jon Woods**, is before committee today. **Attorney General Dustin McDaniel**, to his credit, will be on hand to oppose it along with the **AARP**. Said McDaniel:

We are closely monitoring Senate Bill 900, which potentially would make it easier to allow payday lenders to re-enter the state and offer high-interest loans that harm consumers. I would oppose any measure that could lead to changes in a constitutional usury limit that has been set by Arkansas voters.

You want to see special interests at work? Just give a gander at only [Jon Woods' final campaign contribution report](#), an honor roll of special interest money, including Kochs, installment lenders, financial houses and lobbyists whose work includes the blood-sucking industry. And this is but the final in a string of reports full of special interest money reported by Woods, who positioned himself as the conservative alternative in a hot primary race against another Republican candidate. Remember: don't confuse Arkansas conservatism with populism. Comfort the rich is Commandment 1.