

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 21, 2015

The Honorable Jerry Brown  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1461 (Gonzalez, Alejo, McCarty) – Request for Signature**

Dear Governor Brown:

We, the undersigned members of the California Democratic Congressional Delegation, respectfully request your approval of AB 1461, the California New Motor Voter Act, which would remove voter registration as a barrier to voting by modernizing the voter registration partnership between the Secretary of State and the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Specifically, AB 1461 would automatically register Californians to vote when applying for or renewing a driver's license or state identification card, once they attest to the eligibility to vote.

In 1993, Congress enacted the National Voting Rights Act, known as NVRA, or Motor Voter to improve voter registration. The NVRA requires the DMV to provide an opportunity to register to vote when a person gets a license from the DMV or obtains services from other designated public assistance agencies. California has also made other reforms to improve voter participation such as offering online voter registration, and establishing a new statewide centralized voter registration database known as VoteCal, which will be launched in July 2016.

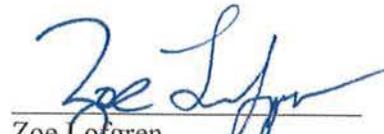
Despite these recent reforms, California still faces significant challenges in voter participation and addressing low voter registration rates. During the November 2014 election, voter turnout hit a record low of 42.2%, which is 38<sup>th</sup> out of 50 states. According to a recent study from the University of California Davis Center for Regional Change, Latino turnout in particular was the lowest in nearly a decade at only 15 percent, despite making up 39 percent of the state's population. Additionally, Latino and Asian Pacific Islander voter registration rates are well below the overall average with only 62.8% of eligible Latinos registered to vote and 50.7% of eligible Asian Pacific Islanders being registered.

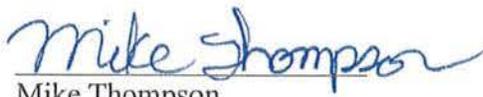
Given the recent decline in voter turnout in California, passing the New Motor Voter Act is more important than ever and will build upon previous efforts to improve voter participation. It would also make voter registration more efficient, cost effective, and convenient for California citizens.

We respectfully urge your consideration of AB 1461.

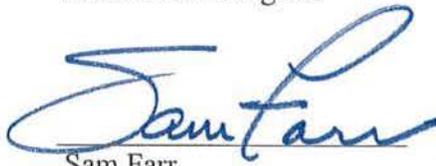
Sincerely,

  
Nancy Pelosi  
Member of Congress

  
Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress

  
Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress

  
John Garamendi  
Member of Congress

  
Sam Farr  
Member of Congress

  
Jim Costa  
Member of Congress

  
Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress

  
Grace Napolitano  
Member of Congress

  
Judy Chu  
Member of Congress

  
Scott Peters  
Member of Congress

  
Mike Honda  
Member of Congress

  
Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



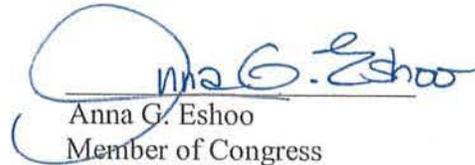
Adam Schiff  
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress



Karen Bass  
Member of Congress

cc: Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez, Assemblymember Luis Alejo,  
Assemblymember Kevin McCarty

**Additional Signers:**

*Doris Matsui*

Doris Matsui

Member of Congress