



March 27, 2007

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Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), I write to express our concern with H.R. 811, the sweeping elections bill scheduled for a vote by the House Administration Committee on March 29. H.R. 811 would require a new standards, technology, and processes for elections in California, effectively derailing the Golden State's already-rigorous and successful election laws, systems testing, and voter accessibility practices. In fact, H.R. 811 has the potential to eliminate several methods of voting that in California's November 2006 statewide election performed with 100 percent accuracy.

California's 58 counties have fully complied with the 2002 Help America Vote Act, and have also complied with more rigorous state standards, including the creation of voter verified paper audit trails for each vote cast within the state. Recently, the California Legislature passed, and Governor Schwarzenegger signed, legislation to move California's Presidential Primary election to February 5, 2008, the earliest such primary ever held in the state. H.R. 811's aggressive timeframes and vague provisions regarding direct recording electronic voting devices do not leave room for review, testing, and purchasing of new voting systems in time for the above election.

Lastly, H.R. 811's broad scope is perhaps secondary to the fiscal considerations that must be inherent in any legislation of this magnitude. California's counties urge Congress to carefully consider the costs and include full funding for any new voting system or election mandate.

Given these concerns, CSAC respectfully requests that H.R. 811 not be moved until adequate timeframes and funding are incorporated into the bill. Our counties stand ready to assist Congress in determining the consequences and costs associated with this legislation, and I would welcome the opportunity to discuss our position further at your convenience. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 916/327-7500 ext. 511.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Keene".

Karen Keene
Legislative Representative