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September 24, 2015

Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1461 (Gonzalez) – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Brown:

The California Labor Federation respectfully requests your signature on AB 1461 (Gonzalez), which will simplify the voter registration process and increase voter turnout.

Turnout in the 2014 general election ballot – which included a gubernatorial race, most of the legislature, numerous local candidates, and many statewide initiatives – was an abysmal 42%. Turnout was even worse among the young, with 18 and 19 year olds more likely to be arrested than to vote. Clearly, dramatic steps are necessary to slow this trend towards ever lower voter participation.

AB 1461 will simply expand our motor voter laws to require the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to electronically provide the Secretary of State (SOS) with electronic records of all persons issued a driver's license or state-issued ID card. The SOS will then register to vote all such persons who also meet basic voter registration requirements.

Voters who wish to not be registered will not be required to do so, and protections are included in the bill to ensure that only citizens will be registered. With these reforms, voters will enjoy much easier access to our electoral system and far greater opportunity to participate in – and be adequately represented by – our democracy.

We respectfully request that you sign AB 1461 (Gonzalez) into law.

Sincerely,

Art Pulaski
Executive Secretary Treasurer

MS: sm
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Cc: Camille Wagner, Legislative Affairs, Governor's Office
Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez