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CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF CLERKS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS

DEAN C. LOGAN, PRESIDENT

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February 5, 2017

Honorable Gregg Harper, Chair
United States House of Representatives
Committee on House Administration
1309 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: HOUSE RESOLUTION 634

Dear Chairman Harper:


As a professional, non-partisan organization of local election administrators charged with conducting elections in the 58 counties in the State of California, we write today in strong support of the United States Election Assistance Commission (EAC). We believe elimination of the EAC would be disruptive to important initiatives and ongoing work that contributes significantly to maintaining and increasing public trust and confidence in elections.

The continuing threats to election security and concerns raised about voter registration integrity following the 2016 election cycle along with the recent Department of Homeland Security designation of elections as critical infrastructure highlight the important role the EAC serves as an information clearinghouse, a research incubator, the facilitator of ongoing efforts to upgrade voting system standards and as a coordinating body to advance collaboration and accountability in elections between local, state and federal governments.

Our members and the electorate we serve have directly benefited from the educational resources, programs and professional interactions with the EAC and its commissioners. Election administrators across the country are carefully navigating issues that range from cybersecurity and data management to end-of-life vote tabulation systems and a public expectation of a more responsive voting experience that effectively balances transparency, usability and security. The absence of or abandonment of federal assistance, guidance and coordination around these issues will undermine the integrity of elections in the United States.

We urge you to carefully consider the impacts of House Resolution 634. We respect the call for accountability and clear direction and we stand ready to work in partnership with the EAC to meet those expectations. In the same regard, we urge your committee and the Congress to recognize the magnitude of this work and the important role the EAC plays in the foundation of our country's electoral process.

Sincerely,


DEAN C. LOGAN, President

c: Members, Committee on House Administration
Members, California Congressional Delegation