



February 6, 2017

Honorable Gregg Harper, Chairman
Honorable Robert Brady, Ranking Member
Committee on House Administration
1309 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Opposition to HR 634

Dear Chairman Harper and Ranking Member Brady:

I write on behalf of Project Vote to express our opposition to HR 634, the “Election Assistance Commission Termination Act.” Project Vote is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to realizing the promise of American democracy. Our mission is to build an electorate that accurately represents the diversity of America’s citizenry, and to ensure that every eligible citizen can register to vote and cast a ballot that counts.

The Election Assistance Commission (EAC), conceived by the bipartisan Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA), provides numerous valuable tools for voters and election officials alike. Eliminating the EAC would result in a deficit of information around election administration and a lack of important elections data used to determine how resources can be spent to improve and modernizes our elections. Among other duties, the EAC develops critical guidance for voting technology, provides various election administration resources to assist local officials in running elections, and serves as a data clearinghouse regarding the conduct of elections. The EAC’s assistance to states and research on elections issues are crucial tools in conducting elections and improving their administration in states throughout the country.

One important tool the EAC provides is language resources that can help election officials meet their language assistance obligations under federal law, and make elections more accessible to those citizens who are non-English proficient voters. These resources include a glossary of election terminology in nine languages, and providing the National Mail Voter Registration Form in seven languages. Other important EAC resources include information to assist election officials in serving voters with disabilities and military and overseas voters.

In its clearinghouse capacity, the EAC comprehensively reports and compiles state election administration information, an important function not provided by any other body. Central data collection in a complex and diversified election administration system such as ours is critical to determining potential issues and generally improving election administration.

At a time when voters in many jurisdictions must spend hours in line waiting to vote, the EAC plays a crucial role in ensuring that elections run as effectively as possible, in keeping with bipartisan HAVA standards. We should invest in election administration, not do away with this important entity. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael Slater
President
Project Vote