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September 15, 2015

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr. Governor
State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 1461 (Gonzalez): Voter Registration – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Governor Brown:

The California State Council of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) supports Assembly Bill (AB) 1461, which would require the Secretary of State and the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to establish the California New Motor Voter Program towards increasing opportunities for voter registration, and would establish a voter education program.

Given that California has nearly seven million individuals who are eligible to vote, but not registered, and with the 2014 being the lowest election participation rate in decades, the level of non-participation in the civic process is simply astounding. This becomes more profound especially when considering electoral, legislative and budgetary interests at all levels of government, and affects that each of these has on every Californian.

Broadening the ability of Californians to engage in the democratic process will yield more representative election results and will help towards ensuring that the voices of more Californians are heard. Moreover, individuals and families will be able to continue the tradition of instilling the values of civic engagement not just at the polling place, but also in the days and weeks leading up to election day.

AB 1461 represents the ideals of which you advocated for during your speech at the 1992 Democratic National Convention. In part, your remarked:

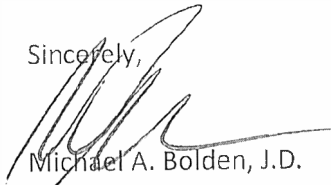
"The future will be determined not on Capitol Hill or the White House alone... when a democracy is in trouble, the remedy is more democracy. That's why every citizen in America should have not only the right, but the real opportunity to vote, and the responsibility of government is to ensure that by registering every American."¹

AB 1461 represents a move towards modernizing California's approach to voter registration similar to that which has been done in other states, and moves California towards achieving your significant, and unforgettable remarks at the 1992 Democratic National Convention.

¹ 1992 Democratic National Convention Night 1 (part 1 of 3).
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZxCsRkzJ71g>. Clip of relevant portion of speech begins at 12:47.

For these reasons, SEIU respectfully requests your signature to AB 1461.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Bolden', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Michael A. Bolden, J.D.
Government Relations Advocate

CC: Camille Wagner, Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Office of Governor Brown
The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez, Author
The Honorable Alex Padilla, Secretary of State
John De Los Angeles, Legislative Aide, Office of Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez