



California's nonprofits &
the communities we serve

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April 30, 2015

The Honorable Lorena S. Gonzalez
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Assembly Bill 1461

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez:

CalNonprofits, a statewide policy alliance of nearly 10,000 organizations, representing and promoting California's growing nonprofit sector works to bring the full power of nonprofits to strengthening communities by speaking with the voice of California nonprofits to the legislature, government agencies, philanthropy and the public. Thank you for introducing AB 1461, which simplifies voter registration by establishing the "California New Motor Voter Program".

In 2012, California ranked 38th in the nation in voter registration rate, according to the Pew Charitable Trusts' Election Performance Index. The result is an estimated seven million Californians who are eligible but not registered to vote. This bill removes unnecessary barriers to voting for millions of eligible voters.

As noted in CalNonprofits' seminal report, *Causes Count: The Economic Power of California's Nonprofit Sector*, there are about 72,000 nonprofit organizations in California. Many of those nonprofits serve people and communities that would directly benefit from AB 1461's automatic voter registration process. Moreover, we believe that nonprofits have inherent assets that make them strong proponents of voter participation. Through our "Vote With Your Mission" campaign we aim to increase voter participation of nonprofit staff, volunteers and clients; the "California New Motor Voter Program" will aid us in reaching our goal.

CalNonprofits is pleased to support AB 1461 because it presents an opportunity to engage individuals and their communities in the electoral process.

Sincerely,

Jan Masaoka
CEO, California Association of Nonprofits

cc: Jennifer Fearing, Sacramento Advocate, California Association of Nonprofits