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March 17, 2017

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Support for Assembly Bill 216 – Vote by mail ballots: identification envelopes:
prepaid postage.**

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez Fletcher,

California Association of Nonprofits (CalNonprofits), a statewide policy alliance of more than 10,000 organizations, is the voice for California's nonprofit community. Through our advocacy work, we protect and enhance the ability of California's nonprofits to serve our state, the nation and the world. Thank you for introducing Assembly Bill 216 which would provide pre-paid postage for vote-by mail ballots.

In the November general election, 57 percent of voters statewide submitted ballots by mail. Currently, one or more postage stamps are required by the U.S. Postal Service to have a voter's ballot delivered to a county elections office. However, many Californians use the internet for correspondence and to pay bills and are not likely to have stamps on hand.

As noted in CalNonprofits' seminal report, *Causes Count: The Economic Power of California's Nonprofit Sector*, nearly 1 million Californians work for a nonprofit, more than in the construction or finance industries, and more than 5 million Californians engage in volunteer activities. Through our "Vote With Your Mission" campaign we aim to increase voter participation of nonprofit staff, volunteers and clients; AB 216, by removing obstacles to voting, will aid us in reaching our goal.

CalNonprofits is pleased to support AB 216 because it makes it easier for individuals and their communities to participate in the electoral process.

Sincerely,



Jan Masaoka,
CEO, California Association of Nonprofits

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