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**CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF
CLERKS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS**

Rebecca Martinez, President
Madera County Clerk-Recorder
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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* non-voting member

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September 2, 2009

Assembly Member Paul Krekorian
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0043

Dear Assembly Member Krekorian:

The California Association of Clerks and Election Officials Elections Legislative Committee is restating its **Support of AB 1271**, your proposal removing the requirement that a voter be ill or disabled in order to authorize his or her spouse, parent, child, grandchild, sibling or person living in the household to return the voter's vote by mail ballot.

AB 1271 allows any vote by mail voter to authorize a representative to receive and/or return his or her vote by mail ballot. The proposal removes confusing and unnecessary barriers to participation in the election process, and *adds no cost* to either the State or counties. At the same time, important protections, including written authorization by the voter, of the representative; prohibition against campaigns and committees acting as authorized representatives, except in limited circumstances; and verification of the voter's signature upon receipt of the voted ballot, are maintained, to guard against fraud.

Current law serves only to confuse and frustrate voters who are attempting, in good faith, to participate in the election process, and who see these requirements as examples of needless bureaucracy, as well as poll workers who are tasked with implementing and explaining the provisions. Removing these requirements will help to streamline the process of returning ballots to the polls.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at the Sonoma County Clerk-Recorder-Assessor's Office at 707-565-1876.

Very truly yours,

Janice Atkinson
Correspondence Secretary
California Association of Clerks
and Election Officials

- c: Assembly Member Paul Fong, Chair, Assembly Committee on Elections and Redistricting
- Senator Loni Hancock, Chair, Senate Committee on Elections, Reapportionment and Constitutional Amendments
- Deborah Seiler, Co-Chair, CACEO Elections Legislative Committee
- Jill Lavine, Co-Chair, CACEO Elections Legislative Committee
- Barry Brokaw, Sacramento Advocates