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CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF CLERKS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS

NEAL KELLEY, PRESIDENT

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April 1, 2016

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez
State Capitol, Room 6012
Sacramento, CA 95814

AB 1921 (Gonzales) –SUPPORT IF AMENDED

Dear Assembly Member Gonzalez:

The California Association of Clerks and Elections Officials is pleased to advise you of our support for AB 1921 if amended. The bill permits persons other than the voter or an immediate family member with written authorization to return a mail ballot to a polling place or drop off location. The relaxation of this unenforceable requirement will eliminate unreasonable burdens on voters and will permit more ballots to be deemed eligible for counting.

The current statute poses an unreasonable and unnecessary requirement to have written authorization for a narrow list of qualified persons to deliver a ballot to a polling place and we support this change. There is no similar requirement if require for the same person to deposit the same ballot in the mail and this requirement offers no protection against fraud as the eligibility of the ballot is determined by the voter's signature and not the means of delivery.

However we find the additional language in 3017(e) to be problematic. We appreciate meeting with your office to discuss our concerns and understand you are willing to make amendments. We propose that the bill be amended to only contain the changes to 3017(a). With this change, the Association will offer wholehearted support to the bill.

Should you have questions regarding our position, please contact me at the Contra Costa County Election Division at scott.konopasek@vote.cccounty.us or (925) 335-7808.

Respectfully,

Scott O. Konopasek
Corresponding Secretary
California Association of Clerks and Election Officials

Cc: Assembly Member Weber, Chair, Assembly Committee on Elections and Redistricting
Ethan Jones, Chief Consultant, Assembly Committee on Elections and Redistricting
Daryl Thomas, Republican Caucus Consultant
Barry Brokaw, Sacramento Advocates, Inc.
Jill LaVine, Co-Chair, CACEO Election Legislative Committee
Tricia Webber, Co-Chair, CACEO Election Legislative Committee