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State of California
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



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October 6, 2015

Governor Jerry Brown
California State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Assembly Bill 1461 (Gonzalez) – California New Motor Voter Program.

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of Attorney General Kamala D. Harris, I write in support of Assembly Bill 1461, which would establish the California New Motor Voter Program.

The fundamental right of equal access to the electoral process exists at the core of all state law. However, current voter registration rates in California indicate that there are persistent barriers to participation in our democracy. As the state's chief law officer, the Attorney General has a vested interest in ensuring that the fundamental right to vote is equally provided to all eligible Californians.

AB 1461 – the California New Motor Voter Act – would modernize voter registration and revitalize electoral enfranchisement in the state. Automatically providing those who receive a state driver's license or identification card with a streamlined pathway to voter registration will allow the Secretary of State to reach many demographics of potential voters who are otherwise left out of the democratic process. The current language of the bill clearly represents a nuanced and well-negotiated approach to allowing for such a mechanism, and its enactment will no doubt provide for a greater representation of the state's diverse population at the polling place.

The Attorney General appreciates the leadership of Assemblymember Gonzalez and Secretary of State Padilla on this crucial issue, and urges you to sign AB 1461 into law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "RS", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

ROBERT S. SUMNER
Deputy Attorney General
Office of Legislative Affairs

For **KAMALA D. HARRIS**
Attorney General

cc: Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez
Secretary of State Alex Padilla