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February 16, 2016

The Honorable Ken Detzner  
Secretary of State  
Florida Department of State  
R.A. Gray Building  
500 South Bronough Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

Dear Secretary Detzner,

I am writing to express my deep concerns with recent reports that some of Florida's voters are casting ballots in multiple states. While we may have disagreed over your previous efforts to purge statewide voter registration records, which threatened to remove several of my constituents and thousands of legitimate Floridians from our voting rolls, I know that we both agree that maintaining accuracy is essential to our elections. To that end, I do not understand why Florida has yet to join the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC), a nationwide database that helps states combat the problem posed by multi-state voter registrations.

Rather than waste taxpayer dollars on voter purges popular in Tallahassee during presidential election years – which have repeatedly been shown to toss out legitimate voters in the supposed search for fraudulent ones – ERIC offers Florida a safe, cost-effective way to improve the accuracy of our voting rolls. There is no reason that Florida should silo off our voter registration information from other states and impede efforts underway nationwide to prevent voter fraud. Florida currently has \$39 million on hand for the 2016 election cycle, thanks in large part to federal funding provided by the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). It is my understanding that participation in the ERIC system would cost Florida just \$50,000.

I am troubled that instead of pursuing low-cost improvements, such as joining the ERIC database or increasing voter education and registration outreach, our HAVA dollars are

instead being spent on staffing the Florida Division of Elections Office. This federal funding is allocated for the purpose of improving accessibility for voters and helping states better administer elections. While I appreciate there is a plan to phase out Florida's overreliance on HAVA funds, using these federal dollars to pay for basic staffing costs undermines the basic intent of this vital federal law, which was to spur real improvements to states' election systems, not take over a state's existing obligations.

Given your role as our State's chief elections officer, your well-known concerns over voter fraud, and your responsibility to protect the rights of voters and the integrity of our elections, I urge you to dedicate some of Florida's federal HAVA funding towards joining the ERIC system and improving the accuracy of our voter rolls. The federal government has sent Tallahassee millions of dollars to help Floridians vote. I look forward to working together to ensure that Florida's funding is devoted to that purpose.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ted Deutch". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Ted Deutch  
Member of Congress