

Date [date used will be date finally sent]

Honorable Members of the Pennsylvania Delegation
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

As organizations and individuals representing Pennsylvania, we are writing to urge your co-sponsorship and continued support of HR 5036, the Emergency Election Assistance for Secure Elections Act, recently introduced by Rep. Rush Holt of New Jersey.

This “opt-in”, voluntary bill will provide federal money for states and counties to protect the integrity of their 2008 election in the way they deem best for their own citizens, be it purchase of a voter-verified paper ballot voting system, auditing or hand counting the election results, or providing the added protection of emergency paper ballots to be used in the event of a failure of Direct Record Electronic voting machines.

We believe that the “opt-in” approach of this new bill, coupled with the sensible and cost-effective array of solutions it offers to fund, makes HR 5036 an excellent measure that should be passed without delay.

HR 5036 will benefit Pennsylvania in many ways. There are several counties that already have purchased new paper ballot voting systems, or would like to purchase them very soon, and this bill will fund those purchases for these cash-strapped local jurisdictions. And our already-required emergency paper ballots could be funded by this bill, reducing the financial burden to most of the other counties in our state.

As you are aware, Pennsylvania will be an important battleground state in the upcoming 2008 Presidential election. Also at stake in November will be your own seats, and many other statewide and local offices. For this election it is more crucial than ever before that we do everything possible to assure that every eligible voter gets to vote and to have his or her vote counted accurately.

Please add your co-sponsorship to HR 5036 if you have not already done so. And as a co-sponsor please continue to support it, by urging House Leadership to move it rapidly through Committee and to a favorable floor vote as soon as possible.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

VotePA

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