

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
Chairwoman
House Ed. & the Workforce Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Scott
Ranking Member
House Ed. & the Workforce Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Foxx, Ranking Member Scott, and members of the House Education and the Workforce Committee,

The undersigned organizations write to support Congressman Krishnamoorthi's amendment protecting and expanding the campus voter registration provision in the Higher Education Act. Speaking as organizations that are dedicated to promoting civic and voter participation among young people, it is vital that existing federal law promote the registration of students to the fullest extent possible.

Findings from the behavioral science nonprofit, ideas42, show that a lack of understanding about the registration process can be one of the greatest deterrents for young voters. As new voters, students don't necessarily know how to vote, or what the voting experience will be like. Students arriving on campus each August have a very short window in most states before voter registration deadlines are looming, and may miss the opportunity to participate in their first elections if voter registration information is presented too late. Having long served as incubators of young adult civic engagement, institutions of higher education can offer students a smooth entry into our democratic process by helping to reduce any ambiguity and uncertainty around registering and voting.

We are concerned about the proposed language in H.R. 4508 that would remove the following guidance:

- The timeline when institutions should request voter registration forms from their state in the lead up to an election.
- Clarity on which elections are covered by the provision.
- Definitional language outlining that institutions must send a voter registration-only email to their students. In other words, institutions would be compliant to the amended provision as long as they link to any voter registration material within an electronic transmission that contains other types of content, rendering the voter registration content lost in the shuffle.

It's also worth noting that the existing language still excludes a handful of states exempted from certain provisions of the National Voter Registration Act. We believe all higher education institutions should be promoting civic engagement, regardless of what state the institution is located in.

Congressman Krishnamoorthi's amendment addresses these concerns by restoring the existing HEA language, and applying it to all institutions. We urge the House Education and Workforce Committee to approve this amendment to H.R. 4508.

Sincerely,

ACPA - College Student Educators International
Alliance for Youth Action
American Association of University Women (AAUW)
American Political Science Association
Andrew Goodman Foundation
Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote (APIAVote)
Association of Big Ten Students
Association of Young Americans
Baltimore Rising
Black Youth Vote! -- National Coalition on Black Civic Participation
Campus Compact
Campus Compact Mid-Atlantic
Campus Vote Project
Civic TN
Democracy Matters
Engage Miami
Fair Elections Legal Network
Foundation for California Community Colleges
Generation Citizen
Georgia Shift
ideas42
Institute for Democracy & Higher Education, Tufts University's Tisch College for Civic Life
Kansas Values Institute
LeadMN
MOVE San Antonio
NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education
National Campus Leadership Council
Nebraskans for Civic Reform
New Era Colorado
Ohio Student Association
Oregon Student Association
Penn Center for Minority Serving Institutions
Rock the Vote
Rollins College
Student PIRGs
The Bus Project
The Democracy Commitment
Turn Up Turnout, Michigan
Virginia Civic Engagement Table
Voto Latino
Walk2Vote
Young Invincibles
YVote New York