



January 20, 2020

Speaker Michael J. Madigan
Illinois House of Representatives
300 Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Speaker Madigan:

A December 18, 2019 letter from the Illinois Secretary of State's office to the Illinois State Board of Elections made public this past week has brought to light a serious breach of supposed protections put in place to ensure the integrity of our voter rolls in the State of Illinois.

As highlighted in that letter, 574 individuals attested to the Secretary of State they were non-citizens of the United States, yet SOS forwarded their information to the State Board of Elections and eventually local election authorities to be registered to vote as part of the automated voter registration program. Incredibly, the Secretary of State's office allowed this "programming error" to continue unabated for over 17 months before informing the Board of Elections and attempting to correct this violation of law. To date, we have no assurance that these self-identified non-citizens are not actually registered to vote in Illinois.

Each of us supports full access to voting rights for citizens of the United States, which is why we all supported P.A. 100-464, our state's automatic voter registration law. Yet concern about non-citizens registering to vote has long been an issue with this effort, even being highlighted in former Governor Rauner's veto message of the 2016 attempt to enact AVR.

This is an absurd lack of compliance with state law, surfacing less than three weeks from the opening of early voting for our state's 2020 general primary election. Given this, we are requesting an immediate hearing of the House Executive Committee to investigate this situation and to hear testimony directly from Secretary of State Jesse White, officials of the State Board of Elections, representatives from our local election authorities, and others concerned with this situation. The oversight function of the Legislative Branch regarding this law must be used to hold the Executive Branch accountable for ensuring compliance with state law and to determine if additional legislation is needed to tighten our voter registration laws.

Given the approaching election, we anticipate your expedient response to our request for an immediate hearing.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Tim Butler in black ink.

Tim Butler
87th District

Handwritten signature of Keith Wheeler in black ink.

Keith Wheeler
50th District

Handwritten signature of Joe Sosnowski in black ink.

Joe Sosnowski
69th District

Handwritten signature of Grant Wehrli in black ink.

Grant Wehrli
41st District

Handwritten signature of Ryan Spain in black ink.

Ryan Spain
73rd District