

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