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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

March 25, 2014

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OTHER APPOINTMENTS:
PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

The Honorable Carol Aichele
Secretary of the Commonwealth
Pennsylvania Department of State
210 North Office Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

RE: Interstate Crosscheck Voter Registration Program

Dear Secretary Aichele:

As Democratic Chair of the House State Government Committee, I have been following with great interest the Department of State's participation in the Interstate Voter Registration Crosscheck Program as you announced last August.

Therefore, I am troubled to learn that the Department has refused to share details about how Pennsylvania intends to purge registrations for voters identified as potential duplicates with the American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania (ACLU). Furthermore, the Department has rejected several requests by the ACLU to meet with your staff.

I take the Department's spokesman Ron Ruman at his word that "No one will be removed from the voter rolls in Pennsylvania without following state and federal laws."

However, a massive project with the potential to disenfranchise hundreds if not thousands of eligible Pennsylvania voters ought to be undertaken in the most open, transparent and fair manner as possible. I urge you to answer all inquiries of the ACLU and meet with them until they are satisfied the requirements of state and federal laws are being followed.

I am asking you to share with all members of the House State Government Committee, answers that are provided to the ACLU.

In addition to their questions, I would like know:

- What specific action is the Department taking and what specific actions are you instructing the 67 county voter registration commissions to perform?
- How are you verifying voters with the same name?

- Are you crosschecking their full name including middle name along with their date of birth before purging?
- How are you contacting these voters to verify their identity before purging?

Your earliest attention to this matter would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Mark B. Cohen
Democratic Chair
House State Government Committee

cc: All members of the House State Government Committee
Andrew Hoover, ACLU
All interested parties