

ALLEN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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March 28, 2007

The Honorable Jim Jordan
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC

Dear Jim,

I am writing to encourage you to vote “no” on HR 811. This is an ill-conceived and ill-advised legislative measure incapable of achieving the goals it purports to advance. The “unintended consequences” which will result from the passage of this legislation will be monumental.

If passed HR 811 will literally render millions of dollars worth of election equipment, most purchased with federal HAVA funds, useless! The guarantees inferred in the reliability of the VVPAT technology will generate a false expectation which will surly antagonize the election debate following the 2008 cycle. The outside, independent audit requirements of this bill will further complicate ballot security while providing additional delays in election certification. In an environment which has most election officials and poll workers still struggling with the massive changes imposed by HAVA and subsequent State legislation, the timelines mandated for the implementation of HR 811 can at best be considered onerous, burdensome and frankly unrealistic.

Election Officials share the concerns of Congress and we are working every day in our respective jurisdictions to elevate our level of service to our citizens. We welcome any opportunities to help Congress better understand the intricacies of election administration so they may craft legislation which benefits all voters.

Unfortunately in my opinion Mr. Holt’s bill, HR 811 is not a step in that direction. I respectfully request that you consider casting your vote in opposition to this measure when it is presented to the members of Congress.

With Best Regards,

Keith A. Cunningham, Director
Allen County Board of Elections
Lima, Ohio

Cc Members of the Committee on House Administration