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CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF CLERKS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS

RYAN RONCO, PRESIDENT

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CACEO website: www.caceo58.org

March 29, 2023

The Honorable Assemblymember Isaac G. Bryan Chair, Assembly Elections Committee 1020 N Street, Room 365 Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: AB 1037 (Berman) Vote by mail ballots: signature verification - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Bryan:

The California Association of Clerks and Election Officials (CACEO) Elections Legislative Committee is pleased to sponsor and support Assembly Bill 1037 (Berman), which would permit voters to cure a signature issue with their vote-by-mail ballots by additional electronic means. AB 1037 will allow elections officials to service voters, including military and overseas voters, more efficiently while ensuring that all who are eligible to vote can do so.

Current law, requires a county elections official, upon receiving a vote by mail ballot, to compare the signature on the identification envelope with the voter's signature appearing on specified voter registration records. If three elections officials agree that the signatures possess multiple, significant, and obvious differing characteristics, or if the identification envelope does not contain a signature, existing law requires the elections official to permit the voter to submit a signature verification statement or unsigned identification envelopment statement, respectively, that contains the voter's signature. Existing law requires instructions to be sent to the voter specifying that they may submit these statements by email, by facsimile transmission, or in person at a polling place within the county or a ballot dropoff box.

AB 1037 would additionally permit voters to submit a signature verification statement or unsigned identification envelope statement by other electronic means made available by the local elections official. In doing so, AB 1037 will help ensure that voters are allowed every opportunity to verify their signature.

CACEO greatly appreciates Assemblymember Berman's focus on of efficient election administration practices that help voters have their ballots counted. We respectfully request the committee's AYE vote on AB 1037.

If you or your staff has any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at bob.page@ocvote.gov or (714) 567-7620-5690, or my co-chairs James Kus, at jkus@fresnocountyca.gov or (559) 600-1730 or Tricia Webber at tricia.webber@santacruzcounty.us or (831) 454-2409.

Respectfully,

Bob Page

Co-Chair, CACEO Elections Legislative Committee California Association of Clerks and Election Officials

cc: Assemblymember Berman (Author)

Rob Grossglauser, Pinnacle Advocacy LLC

James Kus and Tricia Webber, Co-Chairs, CACEO Elections Legislative Committee

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