

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 9, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing regarding the serious threat your recent immigration-related Executive Orders establishing deferred action programs for millions of illegal immigrants pose to the integrity of Ohio state and federal elections. We understand that Ohio's Secretary of State, Jon Husted, recently sent you a letter expressing his concerns about how these programs will impair his ability to administer state and federal elections. We share those concerns.

Your deferred action programs threaten the integrity of Ohio's voter registration rolls as they potentially increase the number of non-citizens who can illegally register to vote and cast ballots without detection. Individuals who receive a deferred action status are not United States citizens but are allowed to obtain valid Social Security numbers and driver's licenses. Under federal law, any person with a valid Social Security number or a driver's license can register to vote so long as they attest that they are eligible to do so. Thus, your deferred action programs afford potentially thousands of non-citizens in Ohio the opportunity to willfully or negligently register to vote and to vote.

As you know, state governments are primarily responsible for protecting the integrity of our elections. We know that Ohio works diligently to maintain the accuracy of its voter registration rolls. By giving thousands of people living in Ohio who are not citizens access to valid Social Security numbers and driver's licenses, your deferred action programs make that work significantly more difficult.

As you said in your State of the Union address, "surely we can agree that the right to vote is sacred." The opportunity for potential non-citizen participation in state and federal elections created by your executive actions, however, impairs citizens' confidence in the integrity of elections and diminishes the value of their right to vote. While we may disagree about whether your deferred action programs were lawfully created and implemented, we are confident that we can all agree that these programs cannot be permitted to impair the integrity of our elections.

The key to neutralizing the threat posed to electoral integrity is ensuring that state election officials can distinguish between holders of Social Security numbers that are citizens and those that are not. Secretary Husted has proposed giving state election officials real-time access to an accurate, searchable, electronic database of noncitizens with Social Security numbers. Other options may be available, as well. We look forward

to working with you, Secretary Husted, and other state election officials to explore these options to prevent non-citizen participation in our elections.

Mr. President, our citizens' right to vote is among the most important guaranteed by the Constitution. Congress has the right and obligation to maintain the integrity and ensure that only those who are afforded this right participate in our electoral process.

Sincerely,



Rob Portman
United States Senator



John A. Boehner
Member of Congress



Steve Stivers
Member of Congress



Patrick J. Tiberi
Member of Congress



Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress



Steve Chabot
Member of Congress



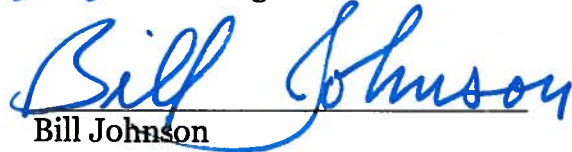
Bob Latta
Member of Congress



Jim Jordan
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James Renacci
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs
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David Joyce
Member of Congress



Brad Wenstrup
Member of Congress