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Los Angeles ♦ Sacramento ♦ San Diego ♦ San Francisco

March 22, 2011

The Honorable Marty Block
California State Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 503 - SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Block:

California Common Cause is pleased to support AB 503, your bill expanding the rights of voters to have their write-in votes counted.

AB 503 increases access for California voters. Elections systems are made up of many laws and regulations that favor candidates who run as a member of one of the major parties. Being able to write in a candidate on your ballot is a way of increasing access to a more diverse pool of candidates.

AB 503 increases accuracy in our elections. This bill means erring on the side of voter intent when counting votes, instead of doing what might bring a faster result. Writing in the name of your preferred candidate should be enough to have it counted. AB 503 is a step in the right direction.

AB 503 improves accountability for California voters. Voting is sometimes the only method citizens use to hold their elected officials accountable. Having full freedom to vote your conscience is important for realizing the potential of voter participation.

We hope that you will call on our office if we can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Katie Fleming
Policy Advocate