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LEGISLATIVE ALERT!

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June 21, 2011

Dear Representative:

I am writing on behalf of the AFL-CIO to urge you to oppose the Election Support Consolidation and Efficiency Act (HR 672), legislation to dismantle the Election Administration Commission (EAC) sixty days after enactment. The work of the EAC aims to ensure the reliability and trustworthiness of our nation's complex and diversified election administration system, and this agency should not be abolished.

Congress passed the Help America Vote Act in response to the many problems which were exposed after the 2000 Presidential election. The bipartisan Election Assistance Commission was established by the Help America Vote Act to ensure the reliability of our nation's complex and diversified election systems. It is charged with developing standards for voting systems and developing guidelines to improve the accessibility of voting. The EAC serves as a clearinghouse of information and is a vital resource for state and local election officials who want to employ the most current technology and best practices when overseeing elections.

The Election Advisory Commission has also played a central role in improving voting accessibility, particularly for the more than 37 million voters with disabilities, and the members of the Armed Services who must vote while overseas. The EAC has an essential role to play in the continuing effort to make sure that all Americans are able to exercise the right to vote and to have their vote accurately counted.

I urge you to support the Election Advisory Commission, and to oppose the Election Support Consolidation and Efficiency Act (HR 672).

Sincerely,

William Samuel, Director
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT