

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 31, 2018

The Honorable Bruce Rauner
Office of the Governor
James R. Thomson Center
100 W. Randolph, 16-100
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Governor Rauner,

We are writing to express our deep concern with your decision to veto SB 2273, which would have removed Illinois from participating in the Interstate Voter Registration Crosscheck System. Not only are there numerous questions regarding the Crosscheck system's ability to adequately secure the private voter information it collects, but there exists overwhelming evidence that the program predominately produces inaccurate or false matches.

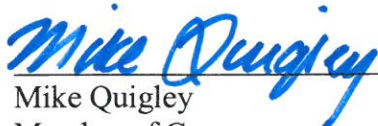
Special Counsel Mueller's recent indictment of a dozen Russian intelligence officers, including those who conspired to hack state election systems, only further reinforces Illinois' need to upgrade its cybersecurity defenses to better protect the sensitive information of its voters, as well as the integrity of the state's election process. However, exporting voter data, which includes partial social security numbers, via flawed security protocols, exposes millions of Illinois' registered voters to hackers and identity thieves. For example, while voter files uploaded onto the Crosscheck server are encrypted, states fail to employ proper encryption procedures to protect usernames and passwords emailed from state to state. This risks the security of all participating states in the event hackers gain access to the emails of just one participant.

In addition, Crosscheck continues to utilize a matching algorithm that makes the program effectively useless. A recent study conducted by researchers at Stanford, Harvard, University of Pennsylvania, and Microsoft has shown that by running an overly simplified two-point match—first and last name and date of birth—the system produces false positives over 99 percent of the time. Furthermore, the same study determined that following the Crosscheck system purge guidelines would result in the deletion of 300 legitimate voter registrations for every one instance of double voting that may be prevented. Minority voters are particularly susceptible to these purges given that cultural naming customs make it more likely that persons of color are overrepresented on Crosscheck matching lists. This feeds into the erroneous myth of rampant voter fraud in minority and immigrant communities, which is used as a tool of voter suppression efforts.

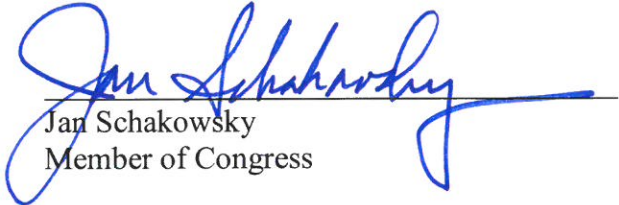
In response to these troubling findings, several states including most recently, Massachusetts and Kentucky, have announced their withdrawal from the program and many others have been sued for voter suppression resulting from flawed Crosscheck purges. Others have joined the Electronic Registration Information Center—a credible alternative to Crosscheck for maintaining accurate voter rolls that has the support of a number of independent elections experts.

As foreign hackers continue to attack our democracy and influence our elections, we should be doing everything possible to empower all eligible voters to exercise their most fundamental constitutional right. Therefore, we call on you to reconsider your support for Illinois' participation in the Crosscheck system and urge you to work with us to protect the sensitive information of all voters, while taking an important stand against voter suppression.

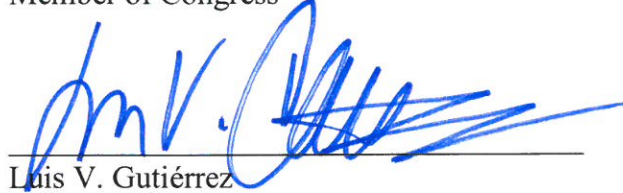
Sincerely,



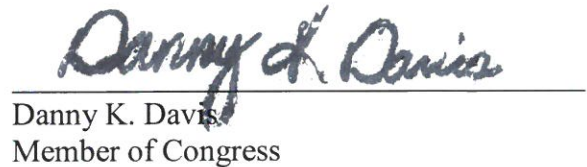
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Luis V. Gutiérrez
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
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