

November 14, 2013

Peter Lee, Executive Director  
Covered California  
560 J Street, Suite 290  
Sacramento, CA 95814

*Via email*

To Mr. Lee:

Congratulations on the historic launch of Covered California. Your leadership has helped make affordable health care coverage a reality for thousands of Californians. We recognize that the launch of Covered California was a major undertaking, and understandably some unmet goals and responsibilities remain. We are writing to urge you to address one of those remaining obligations: the legal requirement to provide every applicant with the opportunity to register to vote.

We were very encouraged by your announcement on September 19<sup>th</sup> that voter registration would be integrated into the Covered California online application in time for the October 1<sup>st</sup> launch. However, after the launch we learned that Covered California was unable to comply with any of its voter registration responsibilities as required by state and federal law. We were disappointed when, at the October 24<sup>th</sup> Health Benefit Exchange Board meeting, you did not address the delay or provide an update on the status of voter registration implementation.

The goal of the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) is to provide voter registration opportunities whenever citizens apply for public services. By failing to comply with this obligation under the NVRA, Covered California is missing an historic opportunity to offer thousands of Californians the chance to register to vote.

The signatories to this letter are committed to seeing Covered California succeed at simultaneously providing affordable health care coverage and the opportunity to register to vote. As we all know, maximizing voter registration and participation not only builds a healthy democracy but is also a contributing factor to overall personal health. We urge Covered California to meet its responsibility to provide voter registration before thousands more Californians miss this important opportunity.

We look forward to hearing an update on voter registration at your November 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, and urge you to seek input from stakeholders going forward to ensure successful compliance. Thank you once again for your important leadership and your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Christina Livingston  
Executive Director  
**Alliance of Californians for  
Community Empowerment  
(ACCE)**

Andrea Guerrero  
Executive Director  
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Government Affairs Manager  
**California Immigrant Policy Center (CIPC)**

Marisol Franco  
Director of Policy and Advocacy  
**California Latinas for Reproductive Justice (CLRJ)**

Cary Sanders  
Director of Policy Analysis and the Having Our Say Coalition  
**California Pan-Ethnic Health Network (CPEHN)**

Emily Rusch  
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**California School Health Centers Association**

Kim Alexander  
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**California Voter Foundation**

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**Coalition for Humane Immigrants Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA)**

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**Young Invincibles**

cc:

The Honorable Jerry Brown, California Governor

The Honorable Debra Bowen, California Secretary of State

Chairwoman Diana S. Dooley

Board Member Kimberly Belshé

Board Member Paul Fearer

Board Member Susan Kennedy

Board Member Dr. Robert Ross