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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
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September 14, 2016

The Honorable Loretta E. Lynch  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney Lynch:

I write to you to express my profound concern with the Interstate Voter Registration Crosscheck Program (IVRCP) and the terrible effect its use has had, and will continue to have, on our democracy. As the country approaches one of the most consequential elections in its history, it is imperative that we ensure that voters are able to exercise their ability to vote.

The IVRCP is currently used by 27 states across the country. Prior to the 2014 election-cycle, the IVRCP flagged approximately 7 million names as being potential double voters—not a single person has been convicted of double voting since these names were flagged. The astounding number of false positives is quite clearly an indictment of the IVRCP's lackluster methodology. Under this methodology, states are told to disregard social security numbers if they do not match, "Jr." and "Sr." distinctions are ignored, and names that are flagged as matches often have mismatched middle names. This approach has led to an over-selection of voters from Asian, Hispanic, and Black ethnic groups. For instance, 50 percent of people of color share a common surname leading to a greater number of these people being flagged as potential double voters. In fact, the names of white voters are *underrepresented* by 8 percent, while African American, Hispanic, and Asian voters are *overrepresented* by 45 percent, 24 percent, and 31 percent, respectively.

There is no doubt that voter rolls that correctly reflect the universe of registered voters are a desirable end. However, the means used by those states employing IVRCP perpetuate a system that is overly inclusive of minority voters thereby blocking not only their ability to vote, but significantly undermining the legitimacy of our democratic system of government.

I respectfully ask that you investigate those states using the IVRCP and the effects this system has on the ability of minority voters to access the ballot box. Additionally, I ask that you please keep me updated on the status of such an investigation. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office at (202) 225-1313.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alcee L. Hastings". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress