

Chairman Miller and Members of the Committee on House Administration:

I am Ken Bennett, Secretary of State for Arizona. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on HR 2115, the Voter Registration Efficiency Act, and ways that states can work to insure that voter rolls reflect the best possible data.

Arizona supports this legislation. In fact, we support it so much; we have been doing something similar since 2009 with what we call the Interstate Cross-Check. What began with 7 states has now grown to 22, comparing 84 million records in our most recent match. It is free to all participating states, who have agreed to voluntarily share this data in a similar format to help insure valid matches. The criteria we use to preliminarily establish a match is: last name, first name, date of birth and the last four digits of a person's social security number. Our participation has enabled Arizona to ensure the integrity of our voter rolls. In 2012 alone, the Cross-Check resulted in over 45,000 duplicate matches. Without this program, and using only the NVRA basic list maintenance tools, over 45,000 registrants would have remained on Arizona's registration rolls through at least the next two federal general elections-and that is only if they were placed on inactive status after the NVRA mailings.

A few noteworthy and analogous pieces of data resulting from implementation of Arizona's statewide voter registration database after HAVA: since 2004 we have

processed 670,000 intrastate duplicate registrants; 310,000 death records; and 75,000 court records. This legislation will allow us to perform these same checks among all states. However, it is important that it remains with the states and is not given to a federal entity.

HR 2115 will enable states to go one step further than federal law currently contemplates, which in turn will enhance voter integrity. Although the main goal of the legislation is to enhance voter list maintenance, a side benefit is that it may enable cooperation among each state's Chief Election Officer to prosecute and deter cases of double voting.

For example, as a result of the Interstate Cross-Check's voter history component, Arizona became aware of registrants who voted twice in the same election in two different states. James and Karen Marshall voted in both Kansas and Arizona in the 2008 Presidential election. Rodney Paul Jones voted in both Colorado and Arizona in the 2010 General Election. John Marotta voted in Colorado and Arizona in the 2010 General Election. Gina and Peter Canova voted in Nevada, Arizona, and attempted to vote in Colorado in the 2010 General Election. There are an additional ten cases pending with our Attorney General as we speak.

The nature and style of the notification is critical. I am pleased that the legislation leaves that area wide open. Voter registration is an inherently local activity and I

am pleased that a “one size fits all” approach has been avoided. It might make sense, as this measure moves through Congress, to allow a national organization, such as the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) to promulgate guidelines for notification. This would preserve local control and allow for flexibility among the varied state and local systems.