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The Honorable Jerry Brown  
Office of the Governor of California  
c/o State Capitol, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

October 6, 2015

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of [The Pew Charitable Trusts' Elections Initiatives](#), we write to urge you to sign Assembly Bill 1461 into law. Pew supports innovative research and partnerships to achieve the highest standards of accuracy, cost-effectiveness, convenience, and security in America's system of election administration. Assembly Bill 1461 will improve the efficiency and lower the costs of registering voters under the provisions of the National Voter Registration Act (commonly referred to as "Motor Voter"). The bill will additionally bring the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) in line with modern expectations for customer service and convenience.

Across the country, states are reevaluating how citizens register to vote when they naturally interact with state government agencies. States have been spurred to improve Motor Voter systems by research such as Pew's [Measuring Motor Voter report](#), as well as the direct call to action from the Presidential Commission on Election Administration, which "strongly recommends that states ... adopt procedures that lead to the seamless integration of data between DMVs and election offices."

Applying lessons learned from successful and popular systems like online voter registration, states have pioneered new procedures that improve the efficiency and accuracy of Motor Voter by eliminating paper, reducing redundancy, and streamlining the voter registration process.

Early adopters of modernized Motor Voter systems—which come in several forms—have reaped significant benefits. In 2009, Delaware's e-Signature system linked the state's elections and motor vehicles databases in real time and built a user-friendly interface for citizens to easily register to vote or update their registrations, directly on a screen in front of them. Delaware credits this system for capturing more registrations at a lower cost: state officials have documented a quarter of a million dollars in annual savings thanks to e-Signature, \$50,000 of which is on the motor vehicles side. At the same time, Delaware has seen the share of new voter registrations originating at DMV soar to 91 percent, as compared to California's 21 percent, and Delaware maintains a voter registration rate nearly ten percentage points higher than California's rate.

Assembly Bill 1461 will make California a leader in bringing efficiency and cost-effectiveness to the voter registration process, while making it easier to register for the millions of Californians who visit the DMV. Pew applauds this effort to improve the efficiency and accuracy of your elections administration system. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions and thank you for your leadership thus far in good governance.

Sincerely,

David Becker  
Director, Elections Initiatives  
The Pew Charitable Trusts

CC: The Honorable Alex Padilla, Secretary of State of California