

September 30, 2013

The Honorable Scott Gessler  
Secretary of State  
Department of State  
1700 Broadway  
Denver, CO 80290

**Re: Voter Registration Drives**

Dear Secretary Gessler:

Mi Familia Vota Education Fund is a non-partisan, non-profit organization that has been in Colorado since 2006. Our mission is to increase the civic participation of the Latino and ally communities. We do this by assisting legal permanent residents (LPR's) to apply for citizenship, registering eligible voters, and conducting voter education and Get-Out-The-Vote (GOTV) programs. Since 2007 Mi Familia Vota Education Fund (MFV EF) has been conducting non-partisan voter registration drives throughout Colorado. Through our partnership with United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), schools, churches and other organizations and groups, MFV EF has registered and educated Latinos about the importance of being engaged.

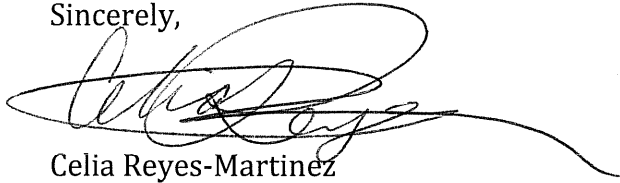
Given our organizations' track record of conducting successful small, medium, and large scale voter registration drives in Colorado since 2007 and our partnerships with schools and churches, we feel the need to raise concerns over the proposed new rules surrounding voter registration drives.

- Voter registration drives (14.2.2): Currently, the voter registration drive organizer is the person who must "successfully complete the online training and test provided by the Secretary of State." The organizer and/or agent is the person who has to complete the stated steps to receive a VRD number. It is also required that the organizer is the person who is responsible for training circulators before they are allowed to use the VRD number. Our biggest concern is that if circulators have to complete the same online training as the organizer, this will prevent us from encouraging students to be part of the drives we do at the high schools and universities, parishioners at local churches and other volunteers with our various community partners. Putting this extra burden on our volunteers will make it harder for us to conduct voter registration drives in the community, affecting our ability to increase civic participation in the state of Colorado. As a voter registration organizer/agent and state director of a civic engagement minded community organization with a long history of conducting voter registration drives, I am very well aware of the

responsibilities I have to make sure our volunteers and circulators are well trained. MFV EF understands the serious consequences for not following all written and understood guidelines, regulations, and election laws that pertain to conducting voter registration in Colorado and all across the country in other states where we have operations and offices; such as California, Nevada, Texas, Arizona, and Florida. MFV EF prides itself on maintaining the highest level of integrity and quality for our voter registration drives in all of our states, Colorado included, which is why our volunteers and staff are required to be thoroughly trained by myself prior to registering any eligible voters to vote. This is a responsibility that I understand comes with my job and a responsibility I am willing to accept. However, putting a burden like this on ordinary Coloradans who simply want to give back to their community and promote citizenry and participation does not seem like something we should be doing.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed rules. Please let me know if you would like additional information about the comments that were made.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Celia Reyes-Martinez', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Celia Reyes-Martinez  
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