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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Alex Padilla
U.S. Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: S. 1240, Defending America's Future Elections Act - OPPOSE

Dear Senator Padilla,

On behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express our opposition to S. 1240, the Defending America's Future Elections Act. While we recognize and support the constitutional role of Congress and the states in determining the time, place, and manner of federal elections, we are concerned that this bill would significantly limit important tools for ensuring the integrity of our electoral system.

S. 1240 seeks to repeal Executive Order 14248, entitled "Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of American Elections", and prohibit federal coordination and use of certain data sources to verify voter eligibility. In doing so, the legislation would eliminate mechanisms intended to support state-level efforts to maintain accurate voter rolls and prevent ineligible participation in federal elections.

Kern County strongly supports measures that bolster public confidence in the electoral process by ensuring that only eligible citizens are permitted to vote. As stated in our support for H.R. 22, we believe verifying voter eligibility, including citizenship status, is essential to maintaining the integrity of elections and the trust of the public. Restricting the ability of federal and state entities to share relevant data and enforce eligibility standards undermines those objectives.

Election security and voter confidence are not partisan issues; they are foundational to a functioning democracy. While we respect the principles outlined in the National Voter Registration Act and the Help America Vote Act, we are concerned that S. 1240 would limit the evolution of election integrity measures in response to emerging challenges.

For these reasons, the Kern County Board of Supervisors respectfully opposes S. 1240 and encourages Congress to consider legislation that strengthens, rather than restricts, our collective ability to protect the legitimacy of federal elections.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Couch', with a stylized, cursive script.

David Couch, Vice Chairman
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Kern Congressional Delegation
Townsend Public Affairs