

Date _____

Honorable _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Dear Representative _____:

I want to urge you to support congressional hearings on the second class status of independent voters. Independents are now 38% of the electorate. There are 3.5 million independents in the state of California. We are a new force in American politics but face structural barriers that block our full democratic participation. Often these barriers are so accepted as part of the electoral system that they go unnoticed. Congressional hearings would shine a light on these inequities and go a long way to revitalizing our democracy and reducing partisanship.

Many states exclude independents from the crucial first round of voting. In California, independents led the way last year in the successful fight to pass Proposition 14 which created a non-partisan "Top-Two" Open Primary. Our victory in California is providing inspiration to independents across the country who are fighting for this and other needed reforms. Many states exclude independents from participation on election boards and as poll workers, and force independents to register as "unaffiliated," "unenrolled," or "other," rather than as independents, to name just a few barriers to full participation.

There have been moments in our country's history where Congress has taken action to prohibit electoral practices that discriminate against voters. We believe this situation warrants immediate attention at the federal level and urge you to call for public hearings.

Sincerely,

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____