



June 29, 2017

The Honorable Pedro A. Cortés
Secretary of State
302 North Office Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

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*President and
Executive Director*
Kristen Clarke

Dear Secretary Cortés:

I am writing on behalf of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law to urge you not to cooperate with the request by Kris Kobach, Vice Chair of the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity, to provide to the Commission an extensive amount of personal information regarding every voter in your state. The Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law is a non-partisan, non-profit organization created in 1963 at the request of President Kennedy to enlist the private bar's resources in combating racial discrimination and to ensure equal opportunities for all. We work cooperatively with local and state election officials across the country in connection with our leadership of the Election Protection program, the nation's largest non-partisan voter protection effort.¹

Mr. Kobach would have each State provide the Commission with the full name, address, dates of birth, political party, last four digits of social security number, voter history, information concerning felony convictions, and military status of each and every registered voter in the United States. Nowhere does Mr. Kobach explain why this treasure trove of personal information is needed, and what the Commission intends to do with it. No doubt, this intrusive and inexplicable request will have a chilling effect on the rights of voters and may open the door for disruptive and discriminatory action at the federal level.

We also underscore serious concerns regarding the various burdensome queries set forth in the letter, several of which are slanted and results-oriented, predicated on the illegitimate premise of voter fraud. Every court that has analyzed the issue has concluded that there is absolutely no evidence of wide-spread voter fraud.

The goal of our society should be to increase and facilitate voter participation, not to create barriers and intimidate voters. We urge you to reject Mr. Kobach's fear-mongering and encourage you not to participate in the illegitimate activities of this Commission.

Sincerely,

Kristen Clarke
President and Executive Director

¹ This letter is not intended as, and should not be considered to be, the rendering of legal advice.