

Exhibit B



**MISSOURI
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

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October 11, 2007

Brian Mellor
Senior Counsel
Project Vote
196 Adams Street
Dorchester, MA 02122

Brenda Wright
Legal Director, Democracy Program
Demos: A Network of Ideas & Action
27 School Street, Suite 500
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Ms. Wright and Mr. Mellor:

I have reviewed your letter of August 23, 2007, wherein you reference the department's compliance with Section 7 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (The Motor Voter Law). The manner in which you are approaching this issue is very disappointing. In your letter you expressed a desire to work with the department to rectify any problems that may be found in the registration process. However, this stated desire is belied by your highly publicized insinuation that the department has purposefully or negligently failed to comply with federal statute.

Your challenge to the Department of Social Services' compliance with the Motor Voter Law appears to be almost exclusively based on a survey that was prepared at the direction of your organization. This survey fails to demonstrate a consideration of the changed dynamics of voter registration and of the department's processes associated with making application for services.

The department first implemented processes and procedures to comply with the Motor Voter Law requirements in 1994. As the data you have cited demonstrates, the department had great initial success in adding to the number of Missouri citizens who were registered to vote. During the year (1995 through 1996), the department contributed to the registration of over 100,000 persons.

Thirteen years have passed since that time and significant changes have occurred that make it unlikely that there will be a repeat in annual registrations of Missouri citizens in such great numbers. During the period, 1995 through 1996, Missouri citizens who were applying for services were required to come into a local office of the department. At that time, as now, the department offered them the opportunity to also become registered to vote or to change their address for purposes of updating their voter registration information. Today, through technological advances, a person can make application for services without ever going into a local office. They can make application for services at home by using the internet. If they do not have access to the internet, they can complete an application in the office of their health care service provider, mail in an application, or they can apply by simply making a telephone call. The department is utilizing technology to make application for services more convenient

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services provided on a nondiscriminatory basis

for its citizens. While these advances make application for services easier, they do not lend themselves to voter registration. These changes do not, however, affect the department's voter registration efforts when persons come into the local office. It has been and continues to be the practice of the department to remind staff of its policy that governs compliance with the Motor Voter Law and to have the supervisors and managers review the practices on an ongoing basis to ensure compliance.

If your purpose and the goal of ACORN, whom you represent, is truly to ensure that Missouri citizens are informed of the ability to register to vote at the same time they apply for public assistance, attacks through the news media and threats of legal action are not constructive. The better approach is a collaborative effort designed to identify specific situations where improvements can be made.

If you will provide information as to the specific offices that were visited and the dates, and/or timeframes of the visits, this information will be considered during the department's on-going efforts to comply with the federal statute. If you have any questions during this time that the examination is pending, please contact Harry Williams, Director of our Division of Legal Services, at 573-751-3229.

Sincerely,



Deborah E. Scott
Director

DES/HDW/dj