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Office of the Governor

June 12, 2025

The Honorable Francisco Aguilar
Nevada Secretary of State
101 North Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Re: Assembly Bill 499 of the 83rd Legislative Session

Dear Secretary of State Aguilar:

I am forwarding to you, for filing within the time limit set forth in the Nevada Constitution and without my approval, Assembly Bill 499 ("AB 499"), which is titled as follows:

AN ACT relating to elections; requiring, with certain exceptions, a registered voter show photo identification to vote in person; requiring the Department of Motor Vehicles, under certain circumstances, to issue identification cards at no charge; requiring the Secretary of State to issue digital identification cards; requiring a county clerk in certain counties to establish a certain number of locations for a voter to return his or her mail ballot to a mail ballot drop box during the period between the last day for early voting and the day before the date of the general election; authorizing a county clerk in certain counties to establish such locations; authorizing a person, under certain circumstances, to return a mail ballot to a mail ballot drop box established at such a location on behalf of a voter; requiring the Secretary of State to establish and maintain a voter services portal on the Internet website of the Office of the Secretary of State; requiring the county clerk to include certain information relating to the voter services portal on any communication to a registered voter; requiring the Department of Motor Vehicles to submit electronically to the Secretary of State certain information relating to each person who has a driver's license or identification card issued by the

Department; requiring the Secretary of State to include certain information received from the Department in the centralized, top-down database that is established by the Secretary of State for purposes of creating the statewide voter registration list; requiring certain information to be included on the return envelope for a mail ballot; revising provisions relating to curing mail ballots; requiring mail ballot drop boxes to be monitored and secured; providing that certain information on the statewide voter registration list relating to a voter is confidential and not a public record; making various other changes relating to elections; making appropriations; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

I wholeheartedly support Voter ID and am appreciative of the effort to codify it into statute. However, this bill is not entirely consistent with the constitutional amendment that Nevada voters will consider again in 2026. AB 499 fails to resolve—and may even introduce—inconsistencies in how voter identification is reviewed, does little to improve signature verification, and leaves too much ambiguity for future interpretation or regulation.

For instance, while all in-person voters would be required to present photo identification, mail-in ballots could still be accepted solely on the basis of a signature match. The other identifying information written on the return envelope is only checked if the signature is questioned, and otherwise is not verified at all. This effectively creates a two-tier system. A mail voter could provide an incorrect or even fraudulent ID number, and as long as the signature is accepted, the ballot would be counted. Meanwhile, in-person voters must provide valid photo ID every time, with no such leniency. This inconsistency undermines the principle of uniform voter verification. Voter ID is essential for ensuring election integrity, and it should be applied consistently across all voting methods.

Additionally, this bill would authorize the use of ballot drop boxes in a way that could increase the risk of ballot harvesting. While I am amenable to expanding access to ballot drop boxes, such expansion must be accompanied by appropriate and effective security measures. My Office proposed language to the bill's proponents that would have addressed these concerns. Its omission from the final version of the bill makes it untenable for me to sign AB 499.

Because AB 499 would apply voter ID requirements unequally between in-person and mail ballot voters and fails to sufficiently guarantee ballot security, I cannot support it.

For these reasons, I veto this bill and return it without my signature or approval.

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Respectfully submitted,



JOE LOMBARDO

Governor of Nevada

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Stavros Anthony, President of the Senate (without enclosure)
The Honorable Nicole Cannizzaro, Senate Majority Leader (without enclosure)
The Honorable Steve Yeager, Speaker of the Assembly (without enclosure)
Brendan Bucy, Secretary of the Senate (without enclosure)
Bonnie Borda Hoffecker, Chief Clerk of the Assembly (without enclosure)
Diane Thornton, Legislative Counsel Bureau, Director (without enclosure)
Asher Killian, Legislative Counsel Bureau, Legislative Counsel (without enclosure)