

IOWA CITIZEN ACTION NETWORK

MEDIA RELEASE

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Grassroots Organization Applauds Two Legislative Committees for Promoting Election Day Registration

Iowa Citizen Action Network thanks House and Senate State Government Committees for their prompt action to improve access to democracy for Iowans; sends e-mail call to action to list of over seven thousand Iowans to demonstrate public support of legislation.

Des Moines – Iowa Citizen Action Network (ICAN) today applauds action taken by the Senate State Government Committee to advance legislation allowing Election Day Registration (EDR), following by just one day the House State Government Committee’s affirmative action on this same bill. ICAN also applauds the two legislative committees’ diligent attention to the need for election security by providing measures within the EDR legislation to insure integrity within the electoral process. “This legislation will enhance the ability of Iowans to impact their democracy and will provide greater access to civic participation” said Betty Ahrens, Executive Director, Iowa Citizen Action Network. “It is a ground-breaking step forward for the state of Iowa.”

ICAN has sent an e-mail call to action to a list of over 7,000 Iowans – ICAN members and others – to engage the public in promoting Election Day Registration. (See attached document.). “As we talk to our members and allies about Election Day Registration the support is overwhelming,” Ahrens said. “We are working to harness that excitement to show legislators that there is broad popular support for removing barriers to voting. ICAN members and allies are taking action across the state by writing letters to the editor, and contacting their County Auditors, State Senators and Representatives in a groundswell of public support for EDR.”

ICAN is currently working with legislative leaders in the House and Senate and with the Iowa Secretary of State’s office to promote Election Day Registration (EDR) legislation. ICAN has been active in promoting civic engagement for its entire history – registering voters door-to-door with its field organizing efforts, and running non-partisan voter mobilization drives. “We have launched this new effort because we believe that our members and constituents will be best served when barriers to civic participation are removed and when voter turn-out in their communities is improved,” said Steve Abbott, President of Iowa Citizen Action Network’s Board of Directors.

The Iowa Citizen Action Network (ICAN) is Iowa's largest grass roots consumer and environmental watchdog organization, with more than 13,000 individual members across the state. ICAN is also an alliance of community, religious, labor, senior, farm, environmental and civil rights organizations - a coalition that is working together to raise the living standards and improve the quality of life for all people in Iowa.

To learn more about our grassroots campaign for Election Day Registration, please contact Betty Ahrens at BettyAhrens@IowaCAN.org or (319) 354-8116. More information also available on line at www.iowacan.org (Click on ICAN Vote link.)

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