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One Hundred Seventeenth
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

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September 30, 2022

Peter S. Kosinski
Co-Chair
New York State Board of Elections
40 North Pearl Street, Suite 5
Albany, NY 12207-2729
info@elections.ny.gov

Douglas A. Kellner
Co-Chair
New York State Board of Elections
40 North Pearl Street, Suite 5
Albany, NY 12207-2729

Dear Messrs. Kosinski and Kellner,

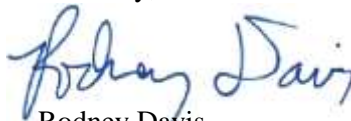
As Ranking Member of the Committee on House Administration, which has broad oversight of our nation's federal elections, I write today to express my concern about recent reporting on pre-filled absentee ballot applications distributed by a private group for the upcoming general election.¹ This group, Vote NY, has mailed pre-filled absentee ballot applications citing "temporary illness or disability" as reason for the application—effectively conducting a no-excuse absentee balloting effort despite New York law.

The voters of New York rejected these types of actions in 2021's New York Proposal 4 vote regarding no-excuse absentee voting. Yet, Vote NY has disregarded the will of the voters and established a no-excuse absentee ballot process anyway when they mailed these pre-filled applications. By pre-filling the reason for an application without any communication or consultation from the recipients, Vote NY is choosing to end-run New York law for their own partisan agenda. Whether a voter chooses to vote absentee (and their reasoning for doing so) is up to the specific circumstances of each individual. I am concerned that New York election law is not being executed according to the will of the voters, which would serve only to confuse voters and diminish their faith in our elections processes and outcomes in a time where we can least afford it.

I understand many groups have voiced their concerns over these mailers and I hope your office is taking these concerns seriously. It is the intent of this committee that every legal vote be counted and that such voting is conducted according to the laws in place. I ask that keep this committee informed on any investigations into this matter so that we may assure voters of reasons for confidence in the election process in New York.

I look forward to your response no later than October 12, 2022, to Caleb Hays, General Counsel and Deputy Staff Director, at Caleb.Hays@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Rodney Davis
Ranking Member
Committee on House Administration

¹ Zach Grady, *State Democrats send voters pre-filled absentee ballot applications, GOP calls it 'dishonest'*, wwnytv (September 16, 2022, 4:55 PM) <https://www.wwnytv.com/2022/09/16/state-democrats-send-voters-pre-filled-absentee-ballot-applications-gop-calls-it-dishonest/>.