



*Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515*

*Anna G. Eshoo  
Eighteenth District  
California*

August 16, 2020

The Honorable Xavier Becerra, Attorney General  
California Department of Justice  
Post Office Box 944255  
Sacramento, California 94244-2550

Dear Attorney General Becerra,

As our state and our nation face the epic challenge of the public health crisis caused by COVID-19, no less important is the health of our democracy.

President Trump and his recently appointed Postmaster General, Louis DeJoy, are intentionally undermining the ability of the U.S. Postal Service to deliver mail-in ballots, threatening the integrity of the upcoming elections. Taking steps to actively undermine the State of California which relies on the Postal Service to carry out our elections may be criminal. Section 18502 of the California Election Code states:

Any person who in any manner interferes with the officers holding an election or conducting a canvass, or with the voters lawfully exercising their rights of voting at an election, as to prevent the election or canvass from being fairly held and lawfully conducted, is punishable by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170 of the Penal Code for 16 months or two or three years.

President Trump and Postmaster General DeJoy may very well be in violation of additional state laws related to protecting California's elections and the mail deliveries to and from the people of our state. The President's own remarks more than suggest that he is intentionally undermining the Postal Service in order to prevent Americans from voting by mail in accordance with California law. The actions of the Postmaster General, a megadonor to the President's campaign, suggest that recent changes at the Postal Service to slow the delivery of mail, including ballots, are motivated by a desire to restrict voting access.

I believe there is sufficient evidence for your office to open a criminal investigation to determine if these actions violate California laws which protect the rights of our mutual constituents to vote, and I urge you to do so.

Voting by mail is critical to ensure that all people have equal access to the ballot without compromising their health. California has responded to the pandemic by expanding voting access, including an Executive Order issued by Governor Newsom to mail an absentee ballot

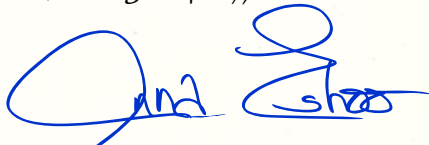
to every registered voter. Sadly, the Trump Administration is undermining these efforts as well.

The Postal Service has warned 46 states, including California, that it may not be able to deliver mail-in ballots on time, meaning millions of voters who mail their ballots may not have them counted due to delays purposefully put into place by the Postmaster General and the Administration.

We cannot allow our democracy and votes cast in November to be hijacked by those who boast in broad daylight of their distaste of a revered institution which was placed in our Constitution by the framers. The first Postmaster General was Benjamin Franklin and succeeding generations have continued to entrust the Postal Service with so much of their day-to-day lives. It is a service that enjoys the fullest confidence of the American people, with the exception of those that wish to destroy it, along with our democracy.

Thank you in advance for your highest consideration of my urgent request.

Most gratefully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anna Eshoo". The signature is stylized with a large initial "A" and a long, sweeping underline.

Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress