



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 21, 2011

Contact: Greta Bergstrom, 651.336.6722, greta@takeactionminnesota.org

PASSAGE OF VOTER SUPPRESSION BILL A STRUCTURAL POWER GRAB BY RIGHT-WING

St. Paul, MN -- TakeAction Minnesota issued this statement today in reaction to the passage of S.F. 509 by the Minnesota state legislature:

“As expected, the Republican-controlled legislature passed S.F. 509 today, a voter suppression bill created to protect conservative majorities by denying eligible voters their ballot. The bill does nothing at all to improve elections and instead takes Minnesota backwards. It virtually ends same-day voter registration, threatens the rights of hundreds of thousands of eligible voters without the exact ID cards required, and would affect all eligible voters, including all current registered voters and absentee voters.

This bill fails the bi-partisan test of elections legislation required by former Governors Carlson and Pawlenty, and it will ultimately fail the people of our great state by undermining our right to self-government. Minnesota is an exceptional place. We're not Oklahoma or Indiana or Louisiana. Our quality of life is far above the national average because we value and have protected the right of all of our eligible voters to have a say in who represents them and how our government is run.

Most alarmingly, this voter suppression bill goes far beyond the restrictive photo ID provisions that have received the most attention. It would enact a GIGANTIC structural change to Minnesota's elections system -- a change designed by national conservative leadership to permanently suppress eligible voter turnout in order to manufacture long-term, electoral victories for the right-wing. Victories that will ultimately change the character and nature of our state.

Eligible Minnesota voters shouldn't have their constitutional right to vote taken away by a partisan power grab. We look forward to Governor Dayton's veto of this legislation, protecting the voting rights of every eligible Minnesota voter.”

###