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Congress of the United States  
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**JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE**  
CONGRESSIONAL HEALTH CARE CAUCUS,  
CHAIRMAN

September 16, 2009

The Honorable Eric Holder  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Holder,

The recent reports of on-going, allegedly fraudulent action by the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (also known as the "ACORN" Organization) should be of grave concern to every American. Last fall, ACORN employees were found to have filed new voter registration applications with false, comical names such as "Mickey Mouse." Republican Leader John Boehner sent a letter to the President requesting an investigation of voter fraud, but I have yet to see a comprehensive report regarding the level of voter fraud ACORN interjected in the November 2008 election.

Furthermore, in recent days past, we have all read the news reports where ACORN voters were found to have been advising individuals on how to avoid paying taxes for illegal activities such as prostitution. The chief organizer for ACORN alleges the videos were spliced together, but the words caught on tape do not lie.

The U.S. Census has found the credibility of ACORN to be severely tainted and has dropped ACORN from the 2010 Census effort, and yesterday the U.S. Senate voted 83-7 to strip any direct, or indirect, funding to ACORN while the House introduced H.R. 3571 (of which I am a co-sponsor) to prohibit the Federal Government from awarding contracts, grants, or other agreements – or any engagement whatsoever – with ACORN.

These measures are a step in the right direction; however, further actions by the United States Department of Justice must be undertaken for two reasons.

First, the protection of the ballot is a foremost constitutional concern. The Office of Civil Rights is to be commended for their role in protecting voting rights for all races and to all genders. As you move to further strengthen this office, investigating ACORN for any actions which they may have committed to hinder the voting process should be a foremost priority.

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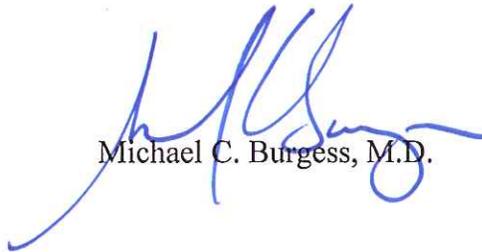
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Second, in February of this year, Congress voted for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 ("the stimulus"). I voted against this bill for numerous reasons, one of them being the continued eligibility of ACORN to receive federal funding for the \$1 billion given for the Community Development Block Grants ("CDBG") and another \$4.2 billion in funding for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program ("NSP"). Legally, this organization should not be eligible for this funding and as the United States Department of Justice I would respectfully request you to look into all funding ACORN has already received, apart from the stimulus, for their activities.

Our hardworking constituents should not see their tax dollars being wasted on assisting an organization in committing voter fraud and engendering a taking on the Treasury.

With regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Burgess", is written over the typed name. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Michael C. Burgess, M.D.