

## **ABOUT VOICES FOR CHANGE.US (VOICES)**

VOICES has been created to provide tools that allow people that are frustrated at the lack of response from elected officials, to be heard in a manner never before available.

VOICES provides a method for you to inform your state and federal officials on how you would like them to vote on legislation, and then holds that official responsible if he continually ignores the majority of the people that state their opinion.

VOICES provides a method for individuals with a similar position on an issue to inform an elected official of their position on a collective basis, so your voice is no longer singular.

## **HOW VOICES WORKS**

Each time a bill comes out of committee to be scheduled for a floor vote in a legislative body VOICES sends you an email,(VOTE ALERT) and you will be able to express your opinion to your Elected Representative (ER) how you would like him or her to vote on that bill. When you click on “VOICE MY OPINION” that ALERT will be returned to VOICES, and automatically forwarded to your ER.

VOICES then tabulates the results of all of the opinions expressed to that ER on that particular bill.

Once the vote on that bill is taken VOICES reports to you how the ER voted on that bill, and the percentage of opinions expressed supporting or opposing that bill.

VOICES will then send you a “REPORT CARD” which will tell you how the ER voted, along with the percentages of the opinions expressed to the ER as to support or opposition to that bill.

VOICES, in an effort to hold elected officials accountable to the people that elect them, also creates a cumulative report card on all votes the ER casts on all legislation, along with the percentage of opinions supporting or opposing each bill. We hope that those in office will understand that their next political opponent

will use these facts against the ER in the next election, if they continually ignore the opinions expressed to them. After all, they are elected to represent you.

VOICES allows organizations that advocate a position on various bills to become VOICES "Affiliates", they are allowed to post an opinion on Vote Alerts sent to those members that have identified with the Affiliate.

Affiliates also can prepare a 'Petition' on a proposed bill that is in committee, or legislation that they feel should be introduced, seeking support for their position. That petition is sent to Users that identify themselves with the Affiliate, and on a VOICES Bulletin Board, for signature. Upon the completion date of the Petition VOICES sends it back to the Affiliate and to; the Chairman of the committee where the bill resides, every committee member, and every ER of every VOICES User that signed the petition. We believe that this will help our goal to have your voice heard.

VOICES also allows Affiliates to form alliances with other Affiliates to make your voice more powerful. This allows affiliates to form an alliance to collaborate on a Petition, and then each affiliate informs VOICES admin that they are doing so. Then the Petition is sent to all members of all affiliates that are sponsoring that Petition, in an effort to garner as many signatures as possible on a single Petition.

There is an inherent bias by members elected to represent you against organizations that advocate opposite political positions. For instance, if a Conservative ER sees a Petition from Moveon.org, before reading a word of that Petition, there is a bias against it, and the converse is true for a liberal ER that gets a Petition from a conservative advocacy group. VOICES removes that bias by having all petitions created under VOICESFORCHANGE.US, and does not identify who authored or sponsored the Petition. It therefore is a Petition of, and from, the People.

VOICES also creates a page for each elected representative. The representative is provided with a "feed" to that page by VOICES. You can communicate your thoughts to you elected official on that page, if you wish, so long as you comply with VOICES User agreement as to profanity rules etc. VOICES also posts results of Vote Alerts on that page, as well as other information that is pertinent to that official, and allows him to post comments to his constituents on that page as well. The elected representative can use this page to keep constituents informed on initiatives he takes on their behalf. For instance, he might post that he is trying to alleviate high unemployment in the community by asking a company to move into the area, creating new job opportunities, and providing them with assistance to do so.

VOICES can validate that every member is a person that resides in the U.S., is

over eighteen years of age, and has a Social Security number, Therefore, no organization can 'stuff the ballot box'. We can do so because when a member enrolls in VOICES we ask for a credit card for payment. We then ask for a billing address, and ask our Merchant Services Provider (MSP) to validate that that account exists at the billing address provided. To get a credit card account a person must be eighteen years of age, and have a Social Security number, and therefore, an organization that wished to 'stuff the ballot box', would have had to create all of those phony payment accounts with billing addresses and Social Security numbers.

Please review our FAQ section to get a better understanding of VOICES, and to see answers to commonly asked questions. Do not hesitate to contact us with any questions you may have.

Thank you