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Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 1:37 PM
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Subject: Absentee Voter Assistance Language on Container Return Envelope

Directors in the 9th Congressional District,

Thank you for your continued work on this Election Day. We understand resources are taxed today. This office wants to make sure you are aware that some-but not all-counties in the 9th Congressional District used Absentee Voter Assistance stickers that contained incomplete language. The final version of the sticker approved by this agency contained language indicating the limitation that only a voter who "due to a disability" cannot take the ballot to the nearest mailbox or depository may receive assistance in doing so.

The correct language reads as follows:

While we continue to review what occurred, it appears that some, but not all, counties may have received an earlier iteration of the language that did not include the "Due to a disability" language included in the final version. This inadvertent administrative error is regrettable. Districtwide, counties report fewer than 10 voters returned an absentee container envelope with incomplete language and indicated they received assistance. We have no evidence that the incomplete language has led to any attempts to engage in fraudulent absentee ballot activities.

Provided there are no deficiencies with these ballots, they should be counted, according the requirement that innocent voters' ballots shall not be disqualified because of errors or omissions by elections officials. See *Owens v. Chaplin*, 228, N.C. 705 (1948). As always, counties with any concerns about possible fraudulent elections activity should contact the State Board.

Please let us know if you have questions.

Katelyn Love | Deputy General Counsel

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