



DENISE W. MERRILL
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT

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For more information:
Patrick Gallahue: (860) 509-6255
Cell: (860) 463-5939

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SECRETARY MERRILL ON THE LETTER FROM THE KOBACH COMMISSION

HARTFORD: Connecticut Secretary of the State Denise Merrill said, "In the spirit of transparency we intend to share publicly-available information with the Kobach Commission while ensuring that the privacy of voters is honored by withholding protected data. In the same spirit of transparency, we will request that the Commission share any memos, meeting minutes or additional information as state officials have not been told precisely what the Commission is looking for. This lack of openness is all the more concerning, considering that the Vice Chair of the Commission, Kris Kobach, has a lengthy record of illegally disenfranchising eligible voters in Kansas. (See, for example, *Fish v. Kobach*, No. 16-3147, 10th Cir. 2016). The courts have repudiated his methods on multiple occasions but often after the damage has been done to voters. Given Secretary Kobach's history we find it very difficult to have confidence in the work of this Commission."