

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 18, 2021

The Honorable Nancy D. Pelosi, Speaker
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Steny H. Hoyer, Majority Leader
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler, Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States House of Representatives

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader Hoyer, and Chairman Nadler,

As members from states that are actively pursuing new voter suppression measures, we write with great concern that voters lack the protection of a fully functioning Voting Rights Act. Opponents of our democracy in state legislatures, governors, and members of the judiciary are attacking the right to vote. Therefore, we must ensure all efforts to restore voting rights are addressed through a deliberative, legislative process as the 117th Congress prioritizes the restoration and modernization of the Voting Rights Act.

“When you see something that is not right, not just, not fair, you have a moral obligation to say something. To do something.” We heed these iconic words of our late colleague, the Honorable John R. Lewis. And we will not be silent while voters in our states are targeted with measures like restricting ballot drop boxes and making vote-by-mail harder in Florida, eliminating “Souls to the Polls” Sunday early voting frequently used by Black churchgoers in Georgia, and adding a notary requirement to mail ballots in Arizona.

As you know, the misguided *Shelby v. Holder* decision gutted the Voting Rights Act in 2013. Since then, voters of color, students, and seniors – particularly in states that lost Section 5 coverage – have endured relentless, targeted attacks on their right to vote. When signed into law in 1965, the Voting Rights Act was critical for preserving the right to vote. As our states are demonstrating, it remains critical today. The Democratic Party has been the party of voting rights for decades, and we have confidence that under your leadership, we will not only restore but strengthen the Voting Rights Act in this Congress. We look forward to this work.

Sincerely,

Charlie Crist
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Terri Sewell
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Collin Allred
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Sanford Bishop
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Kathy Castor
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Ted Deutch
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Lizzie Fletcher
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Sylvia Garcia
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Raul Grijalva
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
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Al Lawson
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Tom O'Halleran
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Andre Caron
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Lloyd Doggett
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Ruben Gallego
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Vincente Gonzalez
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Alcee L. Hastings
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Ann Kirkpatrick
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Chris Pappas
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Nikema Williams
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