



February 27, 2024

Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer
U.S. Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Raphael Warnock
U.S. Senate
416 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C., 20510

Dear Leader Schumer and Senator Warnock:

We members of the Faithful Democracy coalition, a partnership of interfaith advocacy groups with diverse beliefs and traditions, are united around the common goal of creating a healthier, thriving democracy. We see and affirm the intrinsic dignity of every person, and thank you for your efforts to uphold this understanding through your championing legislation designed to protect and strengthen voting access. Only with a healthy, well-functioning democracy will we collectively have the capacity to attend to many of the issues our faiths call on us to address: systemic racism, climate change, hunger, violence, poverty, healthcare, and more. Until voting rights are improved and better protected, our democracy remains at risk. In efforts to alleviate such risks, we applaud Rev. Senator Raphael Warnock's leadership in reintroducing the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, and we urge swift passage.

Our democracy is undeniably in crisis, and the right to vote is perhaps the single most important right in a democratic society. We need immediate, bold action to protect and expand the ability of every eligible person to participate in election processes. Across the country, state legislatures have enacted laws that serve to suppress the vote and make it more difficult for people to vote; especially communities of color, those in rural and low-income areas, and folks with accessibility needs. Democracy cannot survive when people are blocked from participating and we decry Congressional inaction on passing meaningful voting rights legislation.

Preserving voting rights is a litmus test for the willingness of our government to protect everyone's human and civil rights during times of tranquility and turmoil. Particularly in our African American communities, these efforts at voter suppression strike palpable fear into hearts and communities. It is inevitably the people on the periphery who become the most vulnerable when democracy is failing or is under threat. The historical experience of these communities combined with current events and rhetoric in the U.S., and the lack of a federal legislative response to these attacks, creates fear and electoral chaos in our communities.

A vital antidote to voting rights disenfranchisement is ensuring the right to vote — a matter of dignity and agency for all United States' citizens. Please prioritize the passage of the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and the Freedom to Vote Act. This legislation cannot wait any longer. The faith community calls for your action with the urgency this situation demands, by taking immediate actions in strengthening our voting rights to safeguard our democracy for



such a time as this in our nation's history. The passage of voting rights legislation is essential to preserve the sacred right to vote for all eligible citizens and to uphold the principles of fairness, equality, and justice upon which the United States was founded. The right to vote is the cornerstone of democracy, and it is imperative that every eligible citizen has unfettered access to the ballot box.

The faith community often experiences the impacts of anti-voter legislation firsthand, and believes that strong protections are needed to secure our democracy. Faithful Democracy, a coalition of organizations representing people of diverse faiths and beliefs, sincerely thanks Rev. Senator Warnock for his leadership and the Senate for the reintroduction of the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. We join together as an interfaith community and witnesses of the restrictive impacts, to strongly urge top prioritization and swift passage of the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, as a crucial step in protecting our rights and the rights of all Americans.

The Faithfully Undersigned:

Alliance of Baptists
Church World Service
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
Faith in Public Life
Franciscan Action Network
Franciscan Peace Center, Clinton, Iowa
Interfaith Alliance
Interfaith Power & Light
Justice Revival
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
Masjid Muhammad, The Nation's Mosque
Missionary Oblates
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Council of Jewish Women
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
Pax Christi USA
Presbyterian Church (USA) Office of Public Witness
Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team
Sojourners-SojoAction
The United Methodist Church- General Board of Church and Society
Union for Reform Judaism
Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice