

Member: Ways & Means TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE • DISTRICT 116 Dean, Bexar County Delegation

Member: Corrections

June 21, 2021

The Honorable Chuck Schumer Majority Leader United States Senate Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell Minority Leader United States Senate Washington, DC 20510 The Honorable Nancy Pelosi Speaker United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy Minority Leader United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Madam Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader McCarthy,

As state legislators, we are the day-to-day technicians in fifty unique laboratories of democracy. We do our part to make government work to the benefit of all, regardless of party. This was true during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, when almost every state did its patriotic duty to provide voters relief and remove barriers to voting. This expansion of safe, secure voting led to an election with historic turnout.

The scope of these state-level attacks is unparalleled. Close to 400 anti-voter bills have been <u>introduced in legislatures</u> across the nation, with many signed or on the way to becoming law in Texas, Florida, Georgia, and Arizona, and others. Make no mistake: these unpatriotic attacks on our elections will undermine confidence that elections in America can possibly represent the will of a checked and balanced majority. They present a deep threat to our democracy and will lead to material harm to communities that have long been under-represented.

In a functioning democracy that fairly represents the voices of all people, elected officials should work together to expand the right to vote and protect the sanctity of elections. Indeed, we have attempted again and again to work with our Republican colleagues to set policies that safely and securely expanded voting access—*but they simply refuse to act in good faith*. This is not how we hoped our legislative bodies would function, but this is the world as it is.

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We are out of options. We need your help. We are asking that Congress pass common-sense national standards to strengthen our democracy with the *For the People Act* while protecting against future attacks on the right to vote with an updated *Voting Rights Act*, fittingly named after civil rights hero John Lewis.

The world is watching. American democracy is in the balance. When future generations judge whether we rose to this pivotal moment in history, we hope you will be counted alongside us in the fight to preserve this experiment in self-governance.

Sincerely,

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Zack Fields Alaska Representative

Grier Hopkins Alaska Representative

Geran Tarr Alaska Representative

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Neil Rafferty Alabama Representative

Denise Garner Arkansas Representative

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Clarke Tucker Arkansas Senator

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Chris Kennedy Colorado Representative

Susan Lontine Colorado Representative

Karen McCormick Colorado Representative Kirsten Engel Arizona Senator

Juan Mendez Arizona Senator

Martin Quezada Arizona Senator

Victoria Steele Arizona Senator

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Andrew Boesenecker Colorado Representative

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Alec Garnett Speaker of the Colorado House

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Naquetta Ricks Colorado Representative

Emily Sirota Colorado Representative

Tom Sullivan Colorado Representative

Brianna Titone Colorado Representative

Steven Woodrow Colorado Representative

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Anna Eskamani Florida Representative Kyle Mullica Colorado Representative

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El-Mahdi Holly Georgia Representative

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Trish Gunby Missouri Representative

Tracy McCreery Missouri Representative

Kabir Karriem Mississippi Representative

Tracey Rosebud Mississippi Representative Rob Ecklund Minnesota Representative

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Melissa Hortman Minnesota Representative

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Jeff Golden Oregon Senator

Zach Hudson Oregon Representative

Deb Patterson Oregon Senator

Lisa Reynolds Oregon Representative

Marty Wilde Oregon Representative

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Tim Kearney Pennsylvania Senator

Nikil Saval Pennsylvania Senator

Jonathon Acosta Rhode Island Senator

Samuel Bell Rhode Island Senator

Liana Cassar Rhode Island Representative

Alana DiMario Rhode Island Senator

Gayle Goldin Rhode Island Senator

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Michelle McGaw Rhode Island Representative

Jim Seveney Rhode Island Senator

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Reynold Nesiba South Dakota Senator

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Jason Powell Tennessee Representative Carolyn Comitta Pennsylvania Senator

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Lindsey Williams Pennsylvania Senator

Kendra Anderson Rhode Island Senator

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Joshua Miller Rhode Island Senator

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