

January 9, 2019

Dear Representative,

Enclosed for your information is a letter being resent to the House that was originally sent to Representatives on December 11, 2018. The letter, signed by sixty-five organizations, urged support for the comprehensive package of democracy reforms now found in H.R. 1, introduced on January 3, 2019. Four additional organizations have signed the letter since it was originally sent, and are denoted below with an \*.

Thank you for your consideration.

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## VOTE FOR DEMOCRACY REFORMS

December 11, 2018

Dear Representative,

The 116<sup>th</sup> Congress has an historic opportunity to repair our broken political system and strengthen the integrity of our democracy.

We strongly urge the House to seize this moment.

We write as members of the Declaration for American Democracy Coalition, which seeks fundamental democracy reforms to create a government that is reflective, responsive and accountable. Our 65 organizations represent citizens from all walks of life with broadly diverse interests. (See list of organizations signing letter.)

House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi has [committed](#) to bring a comprehensive package of democracy reforms to the floor as the first order of business in the new Congress.

We strongly support House Democratic Leader Pelosi's approach.

This position is reinforced by the views of 47 newly elected Members who were among 107 Democratic challengers who [wrote](#) to Representatives during the campaign urging that sweeping reforms "be the very first item Congress addresses."

We believe it is essential for the House to act quickly to pass bold democracy reforms to provide a holistic approach to addressing a series of fundamental problems facing our democracy.

H.R.1, sponsored by Representative John Sarbanes (D-MD), will include reforms essential to fixing our political system, including voting rights, money-in-politics, redistricting and government ethics reforms.

The American people know that Washington is not representing their best interests when millions of eligible voters cannot vote because they are not registered, when voting laws are used

to disenfranchise millions of Americans, and when citizens are improperly purged from voter rolls.

The American people know that Washington is not representing their best interests when wealthy Americans give huge contributions to Super PACs and dark money groups to influence our elections and to buy influence over government policies, at the great expense of ordinary Americans who are not empowered in the political process.

The American people know that Washington is not representing their best interests when congressional districts are drawn to achieve highly partisan results at the expense of fair representation – when representatives choose their voters rather than voters choosing their representatives.

The American people know that Washington is not representing their best interests when government ethics rules have major flaws that allow public office to be used for private gain, when they permit there to be a revolving door between government positions and private interests and when ethics rules are not subject to proper oversight and enforcement.

And the American people know that these problems result in a rigged system in Washington that is blocking substantive policies of great importance to ordinary Americans, such as more affordable healthcare, lower prescription drug prices, a fairer tax system and the like.

A *Wall Street Journal/NBC News* [poll](#) last fall found that 77 percent of surveyed registered voters agreed that “Reducing the influence of special interests and corruption in Washington” is either the most important or a very important issue facing the country.

The Declaration for American Democracy coalition believes:

- A strong democracy is one where voting is a fundamental right and a civic responsibility.
- A strong democracy serves the people rather than the private interests of public officials and wealthy political donors.
- A strong democracy is one where our influence is based on the force of ideas, not the size of our wallets.
- A strong democracy is one where people know who is trying to gain influence over our representatives, who is trying to influence our votes, and how and why policy is being made.
- A strong democracy works to respond to the needs of all people and their communities, building trust in governance and equity.

It is time to act.

We call on the House to seize this historic opportunity to repair our political system and strengthen our democracy.

We call on you to vote for the bold and essential package of democracy reforms to be considered at the beginning of the new Congress, including campaign finance, voting rights, redistricting and government ethics reforms.

Signers of the letter:

Action Group Network  
American Oversight  
Blue Future  
Brave New Films  
Brennan Center for Justice  
Center for American Progress  
Campaign for Accountability  
Center for Media and Democracy  
Center for Popular Democracy  
Citizen Works  
Clean Elections Texas  
\*Clean Water Action  
Coalition to Preserve, Protect and Defend  
Common Cause  
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, US Provinces  
CREW  
Communications Workers of America  
Daily Kos  
Demand Progress  
Democracy 21  
Democracy Spring  
Democracy Matters  
Demos  
End Citizens United  
Equal Justice Society  
Every Voice  
Franciscan Action Network  
Free Speech for People  
Global Witness  
Greenpeace  
Herd on the Hill  
Indivisible  
International Corporate Accountability Roundtable  
Lawyers for Good Government  
League of Women Voters, United States  
Main Street Alliance  
MapLight  
\*Mi Familia Vota  
MomsRising  
MoveOn

NARAL Pro-Choice America  
National Association of Social Workers (NASW)  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund  
National Redistricting Action Fund  
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
Organizing for Action  
Patriotic Millionaires  
People's Action  
\*People Demanding Action  
People For the American Way  
Pride at Work  
Progressive Change Campaign Committee  
Progressive Leadership Initiative  
Progressive Turnout Project  
\*Project on Government Oversight  
Protect Democracy  
Public Citizen  
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)  
Sierra Club  
Stand Up America  
State Voices  
Take on Wall Street  
Tikkun's Network of Spiritual Progressives  
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights  
The Loyal Opposition  
Truman National Security Project  
Voices for Progress  
Voters' Right to Know