February xx, 2018

The Honorable Senator [Senator Name]

[Address]
[City, State Zip]

Dear Senator [Senator Last Name],

February is Black History month; this month we remember the African Americans struggle to be able to cast a vote. In the 21st century we now see challenges not only in casting a vote but also in ensuring that the vote is counted as intended.

The election of President Barack Obama and the overturning of Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act allowed states with a history of voter disenfranchisement to suddenly change their voting rules without oversight. Suddenly 24 states saw the need to have voters provide Photo ID; many states provided no easy or free way to attain the newly required IDs and this deeply impacted African Americans, seniors, women and students. We strongly support legislation that makes voting a Constitutional right, ends felony disenfranchisement, makes election day a holiday or allows weekend voting making it easier to vote, removes the requirement for Photo ID and passes the Voting Rights Advancement Act to create a new formula for Section 4 to add teeth to the now toothless Voting Rights Act.

In 2017 the integrity—and accuracy—of our voting system have come into question. We’ve seen it in the recent rash of voter ID laws, in election-day restrictions designed to prevent many Americans from casting votes—[even allegations of fraud in actual vote counting](http://www.commondreams.org/views06/0601-34.htm).

**Voting Rights Advancement Act** **S1419 (Leahy – VT)**
This bill amends the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to revise the criteria for determining which States and political subdivisions are subject to section 4 of the Act

**Felony Disenfranchisement**[**S1588 - Democracy Restoration Act (Cardin-MD)**](https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/s1588)Voting is a privilege NOT a right. The privilege has been extended by Constitutional amendment over the decades. Because voting is a privilege and under the control of State law rather than Federal law, more than 6 million people (mostly African American) have lost their ability to vote due to a felony conviction. We must make voting a Constitutional right for all citizens. Currently there is Federal legislation and also Virginia legislation to make voting a right of all citizens.

**Same Day Registration -**[**S360 (Klobuchar - MN**](https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/s360)**)**This bill amends the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require states with a voter registration requirement to make same-day voter registration available at the polling place on any day voting is permitted.

**Automatic Voter Registration** - [**S1353 (Leahy - VT**](https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/s1353))
The chief State election official of each State shall establish and operate a system of automatic registration for the registration of eligible individuals to vote for elections for Federal office in the State, in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

The term automatic registration means a system that registers an individual to vote in elections for Federal office in a State, if eligible, by electronically transferring the information necessary for registration from government agencies to election officials of the State so that, unless the individual affirmatively declines to be registered, the individual will be registered to vote in such elections.

**Weekend Voting Act – S1829 (Reed – RI)**
The Weekend Voting Act would move elections from Tuesdays to the first full weekend of November and have them last two whole days. It would take effect beginning November 2018, for any federal elections such as president and Congress, but not for state or local elections.

**Register America to Vote Act – S2106 (Klobuchar – MN)**
A bill to require States to automatically register eligible voters at the time they turn 18 to vote in Federal elections

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Chapter]