



TALKING POINTS FOR PASSAGE OF HR 1

Thanks to DI anchor partners Greenpeace and Demos and to DFAD for sharing communications expertise and messaging that is reflected in these talking points. For a deeper dive: Demos' guide to race-forward HR 1 messaging is [here](#) and DFAD's complete set of HR 1 talking points can be found [here](#). Additional materials on HR 1 can also be found on this [microsite](#) established by the House Administration Committee.

- We applaud the U.S. House of Representatives for passing the *For the People Act* today, a sweeping package of democracy reforms that will bring us one critical step closer to repairing our political system, revitalizing our democracy, and fulfilling the promise of our country's ideals.
- HR 1, the *For the People Act*, is transformative change that brings people-power back to the core of our democratic process.
- The common-sense reforms in H.R. 1 are deeply popular and have passed in many states and localities, often with bipartisan support. These reforms will:
 - 1) Protect and strengthen the right to vote and be fairly represented;
 - 2) Blunt the influence of big money in politics; and,
 - 3) Implement anti-corruption measures to help restore faith that government can accomplish the people's business.
- HR 1 is not just about democracy as an end in itself; it is a necessary step to achieving racial, social and economic justice and building a better world for us all.
- The problems that plague our democracy reflect our long-standing, unresolved problems when it comes to race. And since those problems are rooted in racism and white supremacy, the solutions must be rooted in racial equity.
- In a country where far too many have been disenfranchised for far too long, the *For the People Act* is *for the people*. This is about transforming America's democracy from a system of racist exclusion to one of multiracial inclusion and creating more space for Black and brown communities to expand and leverage the power they've been building—in spite of all those exclusions—all along.
- HR 1 represents important progress toward ensuring that marginalized communities no longer experience a democracy deferred. For too long, elected officials have gotten

away with obeying the “highest bidder” for democracy and not the demands of the people, especially in the era of the unjust ruling of *Citizens United* in 2010. The reforms in HR 1 will help pave the way for progress on issues people care about most, from protecting the environment and expanding affordable healthcare, to passing fair labor laws and creating millions of good-paying jobs.

- The 2020 election and January 6, 2021 shined a spotlight on critical vulnerabilities in our democracy. Since then, [43 states have already introduced, prefiled, or carried more than 250 bills](#) to restrict or limit voting access this year, intentionally aiming to drown out the voices of voters, particularly Black and brown voters, who voted in record numbers this past election cycle.
- We have a long road ahead of us to transform our politics and realize the true promise of democracy—a multiracial, inclusive government *of the people, by the people, and for the people*. That starts by dismantling the racist and systemic barriers intentionally built to exclude Black and brown voices.
- The *For the People Act* will increase political power in Black and brown communities by bringing together the most effective reforms enacted in states to create national standards that protect our freedom to vote and limit the power of special interests and wealthy donors.
- **All eyes now turn to the Senate. There is no time to waste. It is critical that Senators move with urgency to prioritize passage of this vital legislation and not allow backroom maneuvers like the filibuster stand in the way.**

Questions? Please contact Jack Flynn, DI Communications Associate, iflynn@democracyinitiative.org.

March 2, 2021