



March 2, 2021

United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Member of Congress:

Throughout our nation's history, we have worked to build a more inclusive and representative democracy. This is our generation's moment. Voter suppression and gerrymandering, the outsized influence of money in politics, and government corruption must be addressed if we are to have a government that truly works for the people.

On behalf of our 1.5 million supporters nationwide, **People For the American Way writes in strong support of the For the People Act (H.R. 1)**, a transformational democracy reform package that would help return power to the American people. We urge you to vote in favor of this legislation. We call on your Senate colleagues to do the same and for President Biden to sign it into law. We thank the president for the statement of administration policy issued on March 1, which supports House action on H.R. 1.

**Voting:** When the “Conscience of Congress” John Lewis passed away in 2020, he was still fighting to restore what the Voting Rights Act lost in *Shelby County* in 2013. But as important as he knew the VRA to be, he also knew that it was part of a much bigger picture. Congressman Lewis wrote the Voter Empowerment Act to advance proactive measures like online and same-day registration and youth preregistration and accountability supports like paper ballots and manual recounts. Those measures, and more, comprise Division A of H.R. 1, which he coauthored prior to his passing. This section also takes on gerrymandering by setting standards for state-based independent redistricting commissions, banning mid-decade redistricting, and setting specific triggers for when federal judges must get involved.

**Campaign Finance:** The devastating 2010 Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United* unleashed a massive uptick in outside, often secret, political spending. Today our political landscape is dominated by corporations, special interests, and wealthy individuals at the expense of everyday Americans whose voices are drowned out. Division B of H.R. 1 is designed to restore balance and transparency and keep out foreign interference. From the DISCLOSE Act to stand by your ad provisions to shareholders' rights, small donor financing, “my voice” vouchers, and more, H.R. 1 takes critical steps toward putting power back in the people's hands. It also calls for a constitutional amendment to allow Congress and the states to regulate and set limits on election spending and fundraising and in so doing to distinguish between natural persons and corporations and other artificial entities, much like the Democracy For All constitutional amendment.

**Ethics:** Public servants should be working in the public interest. The vast majority do. Yet, with voter suppression continuing to spread and the outsized influence of money in politics still growing, there continue to be bad actors among public servants. Division C of H.R. 1 addresses federal ethics reform: Supreme Court, White House, and congressional ethics; tax transparency for the president and vice president's returns; lobbying disclosure reform and transparency; and more. Our democracy cannot be healthy until we address the self-serving practices and corruptive influences that have infected our federal government alongside voter access and campaign finance reform.

Our broken democracy has rendered us unable to fully address important substantive priorities for the American people, such as affordable health care and stopping COVID-19; addressing systemic racism; and creating millions of good-paying jobs. **Right these wrongs by casting your vote "yea" in favor of the For the People Act (H.R. 1).**

Along with the passage of H.R. 1, Congress must also prioritize the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act (to be reintroduced), the Washington, D.C. Admission Act (H.R. 51), and the Democracy For All constitutional amendment (H.J.Res. 1).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marge Baker".

Marge Baker  
Executive Vice President