



DELAWARE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF DELAWARE  
LEGISLATIVE HALL  
DOVER, DELAWARE 19901

August 2, 2021

Senator Thomas R. Carper  
513 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510

Senator Christopher A. Coons  
218 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senators Carper and Coons:

Our democracy is under attack on a number of fronts and we write to express our concerns about the insidious erosion of voting rights across our nation.

We are very concerned about the future of our country because our democracy has faced a litany of attacks this year: Republican state legislators across the country, including here in Delaware, are trying to silence voters, particularly Black and Brown Americans, by attempting to overturn the results of an election. Many of those same lawmakers were working to create restrictive barriers to voting even as insurrectionists stormed the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6 and Donald Trump spread his “Big Lie” about President Biden and the 2020 election. To overcome these attacks, we must do everything we can to protect our fragile democracy.

The For the People Act is a transformative solution that will protect our freedom to vote and ensure our voices continue to be heard. Thank you for your strong support for this comprehensive bill to guarantee that all Delawareans (and all Americans) can have the freedom to vote. However, with Senate Republicans continuing to block this important bill, we urge you to do whatever it takes to pass it and get it to President Biden’s desk, even if it means reforming the filibuster.

The filibuster is “a relic of the Jim Crow era,” as President Obama said, and its history has racist derivations. It was frequently used by pro-slavery senators before the Civil War and prevented passage of many civil rights bills, including delaying passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. A minority of U.S. Senators should not be able to filibuster our sacred right to vote.

In Delaware, we have taken numerous steps to protect and expand the ability of our neighbors to vote in our elections, whether it’s by establishing automatic voter registration, implementing early voting, or fighting for same-day registration. However, we are not immune to the same challenges and obstacles many other states face. We have been unable to pass no-excuse absentee voting due to Republicans who abandoned their initial support in the wake of Trump’s loss. Earlier this year, First State Republicans also sponsored a number of bills similar to the voter suppression measures being filed by their counterparts across our nation. Those proposals include legislation that would

increase voter ID requirements under the misguided and widely disproven claim that rampant voter fraud is a threat to our democracy.

Our country needs national standards to secure the freedom to vote. Passing the For the People Act is critical to making sure we can continue to have our voices heard and votes counted.

Protecting our freedom is about protecting every American's ability to participate freely and safely in our democracy. We greatly appreciate your continued support for the For the People Act, and we urge you to do whatever is necessary to get this bill to President Biden's desk, with or without the filibuster.

Sincerely,



Paul Baumbach  
State Representative  
23<sup>rd</sup> District



Eric Morrison  
State Representative  
27<sup>th</sup> District



Bryan Townsend  
Senate Majority Leader  
11<sup>th</sup> District



David Bentz  
State Representative  
18<sup>th</sup> District



Sherry Dorsey Walker  
State Representative  
3<sup>rd</sup> District



Bruce C. Ennis  
State Senator  
14<sup>th</sup> District



Kyle Evans Gay  
State Senator  
5<sup>th</sup> District



Krista Griffith  
State Representative  
12<sup>th</sup> District



Stephanie Hansen  
State Senator  
10<sup>th</sup> District



Kendra Johnson  
State Representative  
5<sup>th</sup> District



John A. Kowalko Jr.  
State Representative  
25<sup>th</sup> District



Larry Lambert  
State Representative  
7<sup>th</sup> District



S. Elizabeth Lockman  
Senate Majority Whip  
3<sup>rd</sup> District



Sarah McBride  
State Senator  
1<sup>st</sup> District



Melissa Minor-Brown  
State Representative  
17<sup>th</sup> District



Franklin Cooke  
State Representative  
16<sup>th</sup> District



Marie Pinkney  
State Senator  
13<sup>th</sup> District



David P. Sokola  
Senate President Pro Tempore  
8<sup>th</sup> District



Laura V. Sturgeon  
State Senator  
4<sup>th</sup> District



Madinah Wilson-Anton  
State Representative  
26<sup>th</sup> District