

March 5, 2019

Dear Representative:

On behalf of Common Cause's 1.2 million members around the country, we strongly urge you to vote "yes" on H.R. 1, the ***For the People Act***, when it is expected to be considered by the House of Representatives on Friday. We also urge you to reject any amendments, including the motion to recommit, that would weaken the bill. **We plan to score the vote on final passage of the bill, as well as the vote on the motion to recommit, in our [Democracy Scorecard](#)**, a legislative tracking tool that we share with our 1.2 million members, coalition allies, and local reporters.

Our democracy faces a crisis not seen since the 1970s. Some elected officials and states continue to suppress the votes and voices of Americans. Self-interested politicians cherry-pick their voters in many states through racial and partisan gerrymandering. Special interests, big-moneyed lobbyists, and multinational corporations have a megaphone in deciding policies that our government makes while our children and our communities often suffer the consequences of those rigged policies. And the Trump administration continues to undermine our Constitution and the rule of law. H.R. 1, the For the People Act, is the biggest, boldest democracy reform package introduced since the Watergate era. It would restore the rule of law, empower the voices of all Americans, stop hyper-partisan gerrymandering, and strengthen the right to vote for all eligible Americans.

H.R. 1 is a comprehensive and effective solution to address the rampant corruption, conflicts of interest, and abuses of power that have significantly worsened in the last two years under the Trump administration. The timing of this legislation has never been more important as Americans grow more frustrated and cynical about our state of politics. Hundreds of thousands of Americans have called, written, and visited the offices of their Members of Congress about H.R. 1 to demand an end to the abuses of power and corruption in the current administration.

Strong ethics laws, coupled with a strengthened Office of Government Ethics, with independent oversight and investigative tools, can help us combat what has become an incessant assault by the Trump administration on our democratic values and institutions of self-government. These laws won't eliminate every single conflict of interest, but they can go a long way in preventing conflicts, can help shed sunlight on corruption, and build public support for appropriate action to rein in abuses of public office.

The ***For the People Act*** represents a down payment to the American people in answer to their full-throated demands for change. It contains many bold reforms, such as small-donor citizen-funded election systems, automatic voter registration, and independent redistricting commissions, that have passed with strong bipartisan support at the state and local level, to help empower the voices of everyday Americans. Nearly all the reforms contained in H.R. 1 have been tested and proven at the state and/or local level, often with Common Cause state chapters leading those efforts.

Last November, we supported more than two-dozen pro-democracy reform ballot initiatives, more than 90% of which passed in red, blue, and purple states and localities, often with strong bipartisan support, and we detail those initiatives in our "[Democracy on the Ballot](#)" report. Additionally, with the beginning of many states' legislative sessions in 2019, we have already secured several key victories this year, including a package of voting reforms in New York and National Popular Vote (NPV) in Colorado. Only in Washington, D.C., are any of these pro-democracy reforms seen as partisan.

The American people want honesty, transparency and accountability from our elected representatives. Americans do not want their elected leaders to use their public office for private gain – to enrich their businesses, their family, or themselves.

We urge you to be on the correct side of history and support reforms that strengthen our democracy and empower the voices of all Americans. Our democracy depends on it.

Sincerely,



Karen Hobert Flynn
President
Common Cause

Since 1970, [Common Cause](#) has been working to hold power accountable through lobbying, litigation, and organizing. Our non-partisan, pro-democracy work has helped pass hundreds of reforms at the federal, state, and local levels. We now have 30 state chapters and more than 1.2 million members around the country who are working to strengthen our democracy.

