

Holding Power Accountable

December 5, 2019

Dear Representative:

On behalf of Common Cause's 1.2 million supporters, we strongly encourage you to vote "yes" on the Voting Rights Advancement Act, H.R. 4, when it is expected to be voted on by the full House of Representatives tomorrow. **Common Cause will key-vote this legislation in our "2020 Democracy Scorecard," which we will share with our supporters in each congressional district.**

The Voting Rights Act, which has been reauthorized five times with strong bipartisan congressional support and the signatures of five Republican presidents, is a bedrock of American democracy. The Supreme Court's enormously damaging 5-4 decision in *Shelby County v. Holder* gutted key parts of the Voting Rights Act in 2013. The Supreme Court further gave a green light to voter suppression in its 5-4 *Husted v. A.P.R.I.* decision allowing voter purges and its 5-4 *Rucho v. Common Cause* decision essentially ducking the question of partisan gerrymandering and denying thousands of voters the right of full representation. Since then, we've seen certain states and localities increasingly try to suppress votes and silence Americans, especially those from historically underrepresented communities. Self-interested, power grabbing officials use voter purges, strict voter ID, signature mismatch requirements, poll closures, intimidation, disinformation, and numerous other tactics to try to suppress eligible voters, who are frequently from communities of color.

We must modernize the Voting Rights Act to stop these voter suppression tactics and ensure that the voices of all eligible American voters can be heard. The Voting Rights Advancement Act would ensure that communities of color, service members returning from overseas, and Americans of all stripes can exercise their most fundamental right to vote. Two Common Cause experts testified at several of the more than one-dozen congressional hearings conducted around the country to compile a substantial legislative record and demonstrate the need for a robust and modernized Voting Rights Act to stop these voter suppression tactics once and for all.

Voter suppression is ultimately about power and who has a voice in our democracy. The Voting Rights Advancement Act would restore power back to voters and ensure that the voices of all eligible voters can be heard in our democracy. Common Cause strongly supports the Voting Rights Advancement Act, and we will continue to pressure Majority Leader McConnell and all Republican Senators to support this critical legislation.

Sincerely,



Karen Hobert Flynn
President
Common Cause

