

Holding Power Accountable

Common Cause Urges “Yes” Vote on Protecting Our Democracy Act, HR 5314; Will Key-Vote this Legislation in our next Democracy Scorecard

December 7, 2021

Dear Representative:

No one in America is above the law, not even the President. But the abuses we witnessed during the previous administration made it very clear that Congress must strengthen the guardrails on the vast powers of our nation’s highest office. The former administration’s actions exposed and exploited a gulf between well-established norms of presidential power and the laws that govern. The Protecting Our Democracy Act, H.R. 5314, will provide greater checks and balances to the powers of the presidency while creating new mechanisms for transparency and accountability.

On behalf of Common Cause’s more than 1.5 million supporters, **we strongly urge a “yes” vote on the Protecting Our Democracy Act, H.R. 5314. We will score this vote in the next version of our [Democracy Scorecard](#).**

Future presidents will not be able to harness the powers of the presidency to target their political opponents, dangle self-serving pardons, and enrich themselves. The bill includes provisions to strengthen protections for federal whistleblowers and inspectors general, promote orderly presidential transitions between administrations, strengthen the Hatch Act, and protect the Justice Department from political interference from the White House. It establishes a duty upon campaigns to report foreign interference in elections, and requires the president, vice president, and major party candidates to make public recent tax returns. The bill also provides new tools to Congress to efficiently enforce subpoenas.

People in America expect and deserve accountability from their president. The Protecting Our Democracy Act has now been introduced during the administrations of both major parties and will ensure that every president is accountable for their actions. This landmark rule-of-law package of reforms will bolster the resilience of our democracy. This legislation represents a huge step forward for the people and for accountability in government, and we urge its swift passage. We strongly urge a “yes” vote on the Protecting Our Democracy Act.

Sincerely,



Karen Hobert Flynn
President
Common Cause