



October 24, 2021

Senator Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Alex Padilla
United States Senate
The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Support the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Act

Dear Senators,

I am deeply concerned about the growing assault on democratic norms in our country. The 2020 election was the most secure in our nation's history according to reputable election experts. No evidence of fraud capable of changing an election result has ever been presented despite over sixty attempts in court. Never-the-less, the previous President and his allies in the Republican Party have perpetrated the Big Lie of election fraud. Seemingly, to shake people's confidence in our election system and to provide an excuse for "fixing" problems that don't exist.

As a result, this year Republican controlled state legislatures have been passing legislation whose stated aim is "fixing" election security, but whose actual aim appears to be suppressing the vote of people who do not tend to vote Republican. Worse yet, these legislatures have been granting themselves the power to overturn the votes of the people when elections don't go their way. They have also begun passing gerrymandered redistricting plans that are designed to keep the Republican Party in power even if they lose the overall popular vote by diluting the votes of non-white communities.

The first three words of the Constitution are "We the People". Sovereignty rests with the People, all the People. The authority and legitimacy of government comes from the People. Gerrymandering, voter suppression and voter nullification risks severing American government from the source of its legitimacy. The actions of a government severed from the source of their authority may be "legal", but they are not legitimate.

The last straw was the recent vote in the Senate against moving to debate on the Freedom to Vote Act. As you know, this was not a vote on the act itself, but simply a vote to start debate on it. Not one Republican voted to do that. Not One! Not even Sen. [Murkowski](#), who I understand helped Sen. Manchin draft the Act. This is astounding. Most of these Republican senators are opposing things that most of them have supported their entire careers. Whatever their reasons, this vote combined with the actions of the above mentioned state legislatures evidences a slow moving assault on democratic norms in the United States with the object being the constriction or overthrow of democracy in America.

Democracy is lost not just by the actions of those attempting to overthrow it, but by the fecklessness of those who should be defending it. With Republican politicians either actively engaged in a blind pursuit of brute power or unwilling to defend democracy, the question becomes what are the members of the Democratic Caucus in the Senate willing to do to defend democracy?

I believe it is absolutely necessary for Congress to pass the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Act in order to protect democracy in this country. This is bare minimum for what is needed. I demand that you and your Senate colleagues in the Democratic Caucus do whatever is necessary to put those bills on President Joe Biden's desk. I have a deep sense of foreboding that your failure to this will be the beginning of the end of the grand American experiment in self-government. History is watching, the World is watching and so are We the People.

Sincerely,

(Print Name)_____

(Address)_____

cc: President Joe Biden