

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 24, 2020

Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-208 Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Leader McConnell,

We ask that the Senate consider H.R. 1799, the *Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2019*. Protecting the people's right to vote is a crucial principle of our democracy.

This legislation will grant the Attorney General meaningful oversight power over elections in jurisdictions nationwide, with a specific timing of determination for violations and penalties to assess accordingly. Also, it includes measures to prevent the introduction of linguistic obstacles in voting registration and elections themselves. Finally, it broadens the power of the Attorney General to send election observers in order to investigate malicious behavior at the state or local levels of government.

H.R. 1799 provides the best opportunity for Congress to protect voting rights in a bipartisan manner. In the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress, Democrat Congressman John Lewis and Republican Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner joined together to testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee on the importance of voting rights. Later that Congress, the committee held multiple hearings in support of the *Voting Rights Amendment Act*. Since then, this legislation has been introduced in the past three Congresses, and it consistently garners significant bipartisan support.

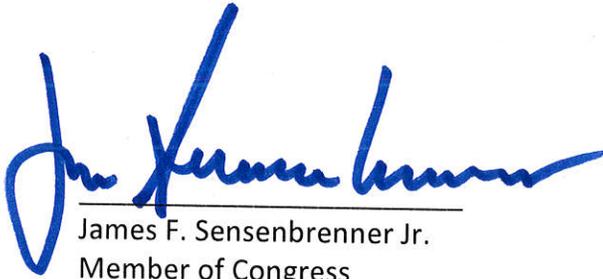
Other legislative efforts to address this issue fail to generate a cohesive congressional response. H.R. 4, the *Voting Rights Advancement Act*, has also been introduced in the past three Congresses, yet consistently serves as a partisan effort to encourage executive overreach instead of fomenting appropriate oversight. H.R. 4, and its current Senate equivalent S. 561, cannot unify the nation to address voting rights the way that H.R. 1799 can and will if enacted.

Despite our nation's history of overcoming tyranny, there are still Americans who struggle to participate as voters due to systemic barriers. Thankfully, the shameful era of prejudicial voting tests and devices, designed to discriminate specifically against racial minorities, has become a thing of the past. However, there is still work to be done.

If our election system does not work for one of us, then it does not work for any of us. In order to increase justice and equity to make our union a more perfect one, we must protect equal access to voting regardless of a voter's identity.

Thank you for your consideration on this important matter.

Sincerely,



James F. Sensenbrenner Jr.  
Member of Congress



Michael R. Turner  
Member of Congress