

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN, INC.

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NCNW is an organization comprised of 32 national women's organizations and 200 community-based sections, with a combined reach of more than 2,000,000 women and men. One of NCNW's "Four for the Future" priorities is advocating for sound public policy and this requires that we stay vigilant about those issues that impact our communities.

We may never know for sure the extent to which the actions of Facebook, Cambridge Analytica or Palantir contributed to a sharp decline in black voter turnout (from 66% to 60%) between 2012 and 2016. What we do know is fairly straightforward.

Wittingly or not, it is likely that the Facebook permitted the most popular social media platform in the world to be weaponized against its users. The result is a weakening of democratic values and institutions. When Mr. Zuckerberg testifies before the House Committee on Energy and Commerce this week, the most important questions pertain to the future. We encourage NCNW members and the members of Congress to enact policy solutions in response to these questions:


1. What is the tech industry doing now to protect users' privacy?
2. What regulations should Congress enact to protect the American electorate from interference in future elections?
3. What will Facebook do to help restore confidence in social media and rectify the damage that has been done?

NCNW's mission is to lead, advocate for and empower women of African descent, their families and communities. Access to high quality public education, judicial appointments, census and redistricting, consumer finance protection, access to affordable health care, police use of force, criminal justice reform, environmental protection affect all Americans, but are of particular significance to the black community. Each of these issues is framed by federal public policy.

Citizens must assure that industry and policy makers alike understand that in our system of government, political clout is a currency as valuable as economic wealth. Proven threats to either demand protection and restoration.

Take action, [Contact your member of Congress today](#) with this simple message: Protect our privacy and our votes.

Sincerely,


Janice L. Mathis

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