



National
Urban League

Empowering Communities.
Changing Lives.

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Dear Representative:

As President and CEO of the National Urban League, and on behalf of its 91 affiliates in 37 states and the District of Columbia, I am writing to express our strong support for **H.R. 4, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act** as it is considered on the House floor this week. As a historic civil rights organization dedicated to ensuring that all people are able to exercise their fundamental right to vote, we stand with our fellow racial justice organizations in supporting this bill.

The *John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act* reauthorizes the *Voting Rights Act*, while putting in place “fixes” in response to the *Shelby County v. Holder* (2013) and *Brnovich v. Democratic National Committee* (2021) decisions. After the *Shelby County* decision, the number of discriminatory voting laws and practices have drastically increased across the country. The bill is in response to the current needs of this nation in the fight for voting rights, which have been presented in months-long congressional investigations and hearings. The *Voting Rights Act* has a long history of bipartisan support that must continue to prevent future inequitable bills and manipulative redistricting efforts from discriminating against voters of color.

Specifically, this legislation updates the “preclearance formula” that blocks discriminatory voting laws from being implemented by establishing a new review criterion that accounts for current conditions and requires federal review of specific voting practices known to impact voters of color. Additionally, the bill mandates greater nationwide transparency of voting laws and policy changes, expands and updates the frameworks that allow courts to “bail in” and “bail out” judicial review of jurisdictional practices, and restores voters’ ability to legally challenge racially discriminatory changes in voting laws and policies. Lastly, the bill allows the Justice Department to compel documents to investigate voting rights violations, expands the federal observer program, and pauses discriminatory voting changes during judicial review.

This bill is a concrete way to advance the nation's fight against discriminatory voting laws which specifically target people of color. We will continue to support the *John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act* and other proposals that advance the fight for the rights, safety, and empowerment of all people in our nation.

For more information, please contact Yvette Badu-Nimako, Senior Director for Judiciary, Civil Rights and Social Justice at ybadu@nul.org.

Sincerely,

Marc H. Morial
President and Chief Executive Officer
National Urban League