

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 11, 2021

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
Chairwoman
Committee on Rules and Administration
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Ranking Member
Committee on Rules and Administration
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Klobuchar and Ranking Member Blunt,

Voting is the cornerstone of our democracy. Last November, record numbers of Americans voted, with over 159 million votes cast. For us freshman Senators, it was a moment of personal pride, and we are honored to serve in this hallowed body. In advance of the scheduled May 11, 2021 business meeting in the U.S. Senate Committee on Rules and Administration to consider and markup the *For the People Act* (S.1), we write to urge you to protect voting rights across the country by advancing the *For the People Act* to the Senate floor and strengthen our democracy.

When we see democracy work, we should rejoice—not restrict. Yet since November’s record-breaking turnout, state legislators across the country have introduced over 360 bills in 47 states that would restrict voting rights. Six of these bills have been signed into law. Against this wave of voting restrictions, Congress must take urgent action to protect our democracy.

On Tuesday, during its markup of the *For the People Act*, the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration can send a powerful bipartisan message that we stand with all Americans in protecting the right to vote. And as freshman Senators, we stand united in our support of this legislation.

The *For the People Act* is a bold package that includes the reforms essential to making our government work for all people, regardless of race, gender, or political party. It will protect absentee voting, early voting, and reduce the risk of faulty voter purges, while maintaining state election integrity measures. It will end partisan gerrymandering. It will provide important campaign finance reforms to end dark money and curb the influence of special interests and corporations in our elections. It includes desperately needed ethics reforms that will slow the revolving door between public service and the private sector. It also will strengthen oversight and enforcement of commonsense ethics laws and rules, among many other critical components. And it will work together with the provisions in the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act intended to undo the damage caused by *Shelby County vs. Holder*, setting a floor in the states for protecting voters.

As new Senators to the caucus, we have a timely perspective on the issues facing our democracy and the urgent need to address them. Voting rights are preservative of all our rights. In the face of attacks on voting throughout the country, we urge the members of the Senate

Committee on Rules and Administration to protect our democracy and advance the *For the People Act*.

Sincerely,



Reverend Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Ben Ray Luján
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator