August 3, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

We are some of the largest voter registration and get-out-the-vote organizations in the most politically competitive states in the country. We believe that the new anti-voter laws being passed in many of our states, coupled with recent Supreme Court decisions, will make it harder for regular citizens to vote—and for us to help those citizens register and vote. Some may think we can overcome these unwarranted barriers to the ballot box by just increasing our organizing efforts. We write to tell you unequivocally that that is simply not true.

In 2021 alone, 18 states have enacted 30 laws with restrictive voting provisions and hundreds more have been introduced. Most of these bills target options like absentee voting and ballot drop boxes, processes that led to record turnout—both nationwide and in the Black community—even in the middle of a global pandemic. These efforts will disproportionately harm voters of color and hinder their access to the ballot box, while taking election administration authority away from nonpartisan local officials and giving it to partisan politicians in state legislatures. In Georgia for example, more than half of the state's registered voters who don't have a driver's license or state ID number are Black, which could block them from voting absentee under the state's new law. In Arizona, legislation targeting the "permanent early voting list" will harm those who work irregular schedules and can't vote in person, and disproportionally impact the Latino community. These are targeted efforts to suppress the vote and it's a crisis that demands swift and immediate action.

Our organizations will continue to do everything we can so that all eligible voters in our states have the resources and opportunities to exercise their fundamental right to vote. However, our organizing capacity is not unlimited. We are facing a rising tide of voter suppression unlike anything we have seen. While grassroots efforts remain critical to ensuring fair and representative elections, so too is federal legislation to protect and preserve the rights of the constituencies we serve.

In your recent speech in Philadelphia, you said our democracy was currently facing its biggest test since the Civil War. Now, it's up to you and Senate Democrats to meet the moment you so eloquently spoke of.

We strongly urge you to do everything you can to help make the For the People Act become law. That will help ensure equal voting access for all Americans, and it will help us organize for strong turnout—from all voters—each election cycle. Without it, we fear that no amount of effort will be able to mitigate the voter suppression that we are seeing across the country.

Signed,

603 Forward
AFSCME Council 5
All About the Ballots
Arizona AFL-CIO
Black Leaders Organizing for Communities (BLOC)
Black Voters Matter Fund
BlackPAC
CASE Action
Chispa Arizona
Citizen Action of Wisconsin
Clean Water Action
Cobalt
CWA Local 7019
Detroit Action
Down Home North Carolina
Florida Rising
Forward Montana
Kent Street Coalition
Land Stewardship Project
Leadership Matters MN
League of Women Voters New Hampshire
LUCHA Arizona
Maine People's Alliance
Mi Familia Vota
Minnesota Youth Collective
Move Texas Action Fund
New Era Colorado
New Georgia Project Action Fund
New Hampshire Youth Movement
NH Postal Workers, American Postal Workers Union
Ohio Women's Alliance Action Fund
OLÉ (Organizers in the Land of Enchantment)
One Colorado Education Fund
OPAWL - Building AAPI Feminist Leadership in Ohio
Pennsylvania Stands Up
Progress North
ProgressNow Colorado
Rights & Democracy New Hampshire
Rights & Democracy Vermont

Rural Arizona Engagement
Siembra NC
Sierra Club North Star Chapter
TakeAction Minnesota
Texas Organizing Project
The Voting Rights Action Group of the Dover Democratic Committee
VoProPros
Wisconsin Education Association Council
Wisconsin Working Families Party
Women Talk Black