



February 19, 2021

Speaker Nancy Pelosi
1236 Longworth H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

The Sisters of Mercy of the Americas is a congregation of Catholic women religious committed to work in communion with others who seek a more just and inclusive world, and as such, we write in strong support of the *For the People Act* (H.R.1/S.1).

This democracy reform package is critical to overturning voter suppression that disproportionately disenfranchises Black, Latinx and young Americans and to limiting the undue influence of monied interests.

The Sisters of Mercy believe “racism is an evil affecting us all.” We work to mobilize sisters and associates in recognizing and dismantling institutional racism and believe that upholding the voting rights of marginalized Americans is a critical step towards dismantling the systemic racism that underlies so much of our nation’s infrastructure.

It became all too clear over the past three months how fragile our democracy is. We came frighteningly close to an overturned election as President Trump and his loyalists, including many elected officials, demanded that ballots be discarded from cities with large Black populations. This played out to its logical end with the violent siege on the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6th.

The common-sense reforms in the *For the People Act* aim to (1) protect and strengthen the sacred right to vote, (2) end the dominance of big money in politics, and (3) implement anti-corruption, pro-ethics measures to clean up government. Without structural democracy reform, our nation will remain unable to fully address important substantive priorities for the American people. These include expanding affordable healthcare and stopping the spread of COVID-19, eliminating systemic racism, protecting the environment and minimizing the threat of climate change, and creating pathways to legal status for immigrants who are contributing members of our communities.

On behalf of the over 2300 Sisters of Mercy and the thousands of Mercy Associates across the United States, we urge you to demonstrate your leadership and ensure that the *For the People Act* is a priority in the 117th Congress.

Sincerely,

Margaret Conley
Director, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team