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December 4, 2019

Dear Representative:

On behalf of ADL (the Anti-Defamation League), we write to urge you to support H.R. 4, the Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2019 (VRAA).

The Anti-Defamation League is a leading anti-hate organization and has been working to secure justice and fair treatment for all since its founding in 1913. Since the enactment of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) in 1965 – one of the most important and effective pieces of civil rights legislation – a central part of ADL’s mission has been devoted to ensuring that all Americans have a voice in our democracy.

Since the Supreme Court invalidated part of the Voting Rights Act in *Shelby County v Holder* (2013), voting rights have been under attack. The *Shelby County* decision has enabled harmful, unnecessary voter ID laws that have disproportionately affected marginalized communities, low-income persons, elderly Americans, and students. In fact, half the country now faces stricter voting regulations than they did in 2010. These laws threaten our democracy and contradict the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment’s guarantee of equal voting rights. Passing the VRAA is critical to enforcing the constitutional prohibition on racial discrimination in voting and protecting the fundamental right to vote for all Americans.

Enactment of the VRAA would be an important first step in restoring voter trust in America’s elections and preventing states from enacting additional discriminatory measures to suppress the vote. The VRAA would establish a new formula for determining when federal oversight is necessary to prevent discriminatory voting restrictions and require all states to publicly disclose any new changes to voting practices. By requiring all states to disclose any changes to voting practices, the legislation would promote ballot access and help ensure that all voters understand where and how to cast their ballot.

The right to vote is fundamental to American democracy and should never be abridged on the basis of color. Passing this legislation will bolster the foundation of our democracy and protect equal voting rights for all. In the face of such threats to equal rights and our democratic values, we urge you to support the Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2019.

Sincerely,

Max Sevillia

Vice President, Government Relations, Advocacy & Community Engagement  
Anti-Defamation League