



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4333
April 16, 2021

Office of the Attorney General
950 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Garland:

We write as Co-Chairs of the Congressional Voting Rights Caucus to request information regarding the Department of Justice's efforts to protect the voting rights of people across America, especially those who live in states that are proposing legislation designed to restrict the right to vote and make it more difficult for communities of color to vote.¹

During the 2020 election, Americans across the country risked their lives to vote during a deadly pandemic to ensure their voice was heard at the ballot box. The 2020 election had the highest voter participation in a century while maintaining election security and accuracy. Despite the successful administration of the 2020 election, we are seeing a dangerous trend occurring in states across the country, in which state lawmakers are introducing dangerous Jim Crow-style voter suppression laws that will silence the voices of Black, Indigenous, people of color, as well as people with disabilities.² According to the Brennan Center for Justice, state lawmakers have introduced 361 bills with restrictive voting provisions in 47 states.³

These bills, if passed, aim to specifically suppress minority voter turnout and will make voting harder for the general public. They would undermine the ability of local election officials to encourage voter participation and will create new barriers for voters.

In light of this attack on voting rights, we respectfully request a written response to the following questions by April 30, 2021:

1. What action, if any, is being taken by the Department of Justice to review/challenge SB202 in the state of Georgia? This bill, amongst other provisions, criminalizes "line

¹ *Georgia's new GOP election law draws criticism, lawsuits*, Associated Press (March 29, 2021).

² *Texas Republicans begin pursuing new voting restrictions as they work to protect their hold on power*, The Texas Tribune (March 22, 2021).

³ *State Voting Laws*. Brennan Center for Justice. Retrieved April 6, 2021, from <https://www.brennancenter.org/issues/ensure-every-american-can-vote/voting-reform/state-voting-laws> (March 24, 2021).

- warming” at a time when the state of Georgia has systematically closed polling places in predominantly black precincts resulting in voters waiting in long lines for several hours?
2. Is the Department monitoring similar bills that have been introduced in Texas, Florida, and other states across the country? Will the Justice Department commit to setting aside funds to challenge discriminatory laws that violate section 2 of the Voting Rights Act?
 3. Please describe any other current measures the Justice Department is taking to prevent voter suppression.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter. Should you have any questions about this request, please contact Luke Dube at (202) 225-9897 or luke.dube@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Marc A. Veasey

Member of Congress



Terri Sewell

Member of Congress



Robert C. “Bobby” Scott

Member of Congress