

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 21, 2016

The Honorable Candice Miller
Chairman
Committee on House Administration
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte
Chairman
Judiciary on Committee
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Miller and Chairman Goodlatte:

We the undersigned ask you to convene hearings on a suite of legislative reforms within the jurisdiction of the Committee on House Administration and the House Judiciary Committee respectively. At a time when Americans of all political stripes have grown deeply cynical, convinced that the institutions of government – particularly Congress – are broken beyond repair, reforms that can restore confidence in the functioning of our republic must be an immediate and urgent priority.

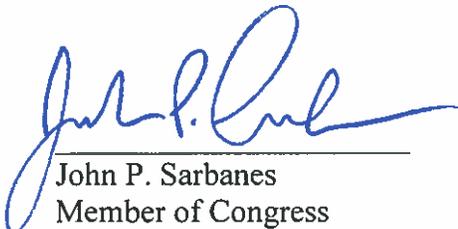
The two basic imperatives of a functioning democracy—the right to vote and the right to have your vote mean something—are under assault. Spurred on by the Supreme Court’s decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*, partisan operatives in state legislatures are crafting new ways to limit Americans access to the ballot box. At the same time, the corrosive effect of big money on our political system – an effect exacerbated by the *Citizens United* decision – has left many Americans wondering whether their ballots can ever compete against the power of a privileged few.

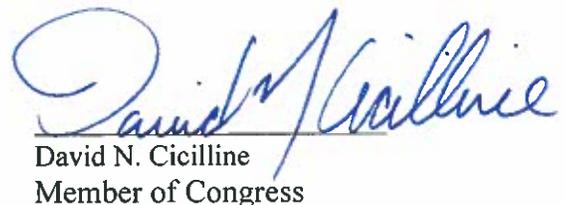
It is time for federal action to address these twin challenges to our democracy. As members of Congress, our most important responsibility is to ensure that the voice of every American can be heard. To that end, we ask that you schedule hearings on the following bills as soon as possible:

- The Voter Empowerment Act (H.R. 12)
- The Government By the People Act (H.R. 20)
- The Democracy for All Amendment (H.J.Res. 22)
- The Automatic Voter Registration (H.R. 2694)
- The Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2015 (H.R. 2867)

The House of Representatives is known as the “People’s House.” In that spirit, we believe it is high time to take up the “People’s Reforms.” Let’s give these key measures a fair hearing in committee and then bring them to the House floor for debate and a vote.

Sincerely,


John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress


David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress


Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress


Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress


John Yarmuth
Member of Congress


Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress

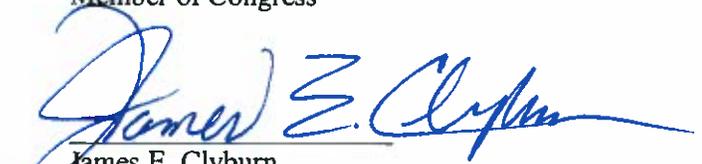

Matthew Cartwright
Member of Congress


Kathy Castor
Member of Congress

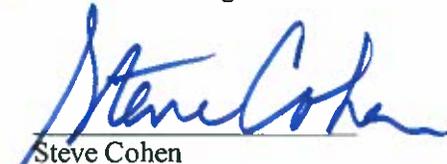

Beto O'Rourke
Member of Congress


Donna Edwards
Member of Congress


Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress


James E. Clyburn
Member of Congress

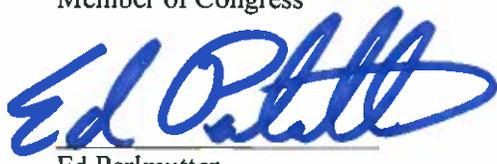

Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress

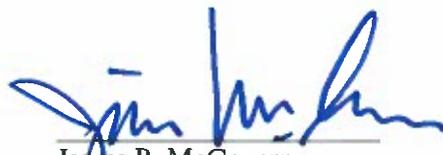

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress


Albio Sires
Member of Congress


Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

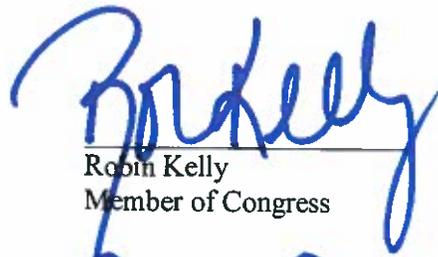

Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress


Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress


James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



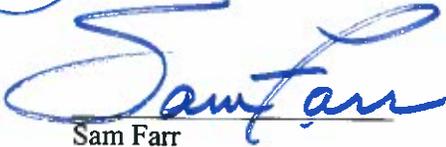
Robin Kelly
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Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress



James R. Langevin
Member of Congress



Sam Farr
Member of Congress



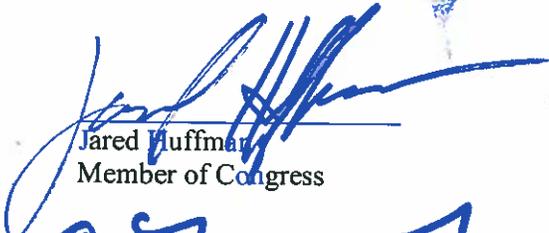
Joe Courtney
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Alan Grayson
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Katherine Clark
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Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



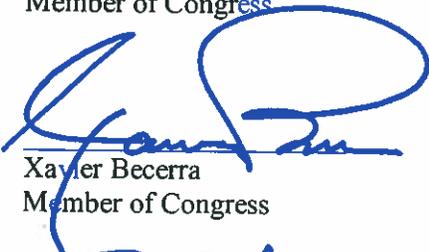
Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Hank Johnson
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Xavier Becerra
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Gerry Connolly
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Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



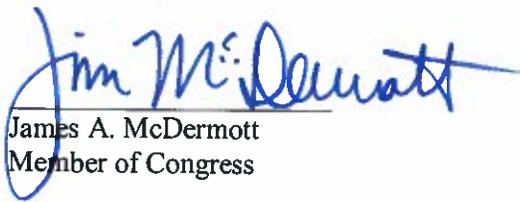
Dina Titus
Member of Congress



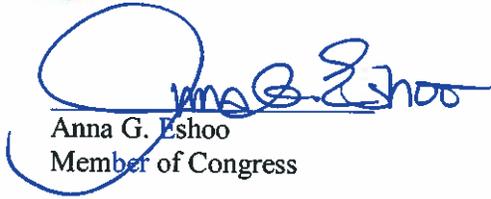
Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



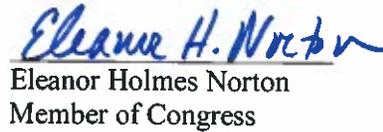
Janice Hahn
Member of Congress


James A. McDermott
Member of Congress


Bobby Scott
Member of Congress


Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

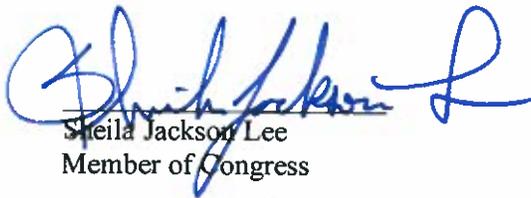

Elizabeth H. Esty
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Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress


Peter Welch
Member of Congress

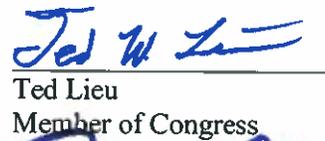

Gene Green
Member of Congress


Keith Ellison
Member of Congress

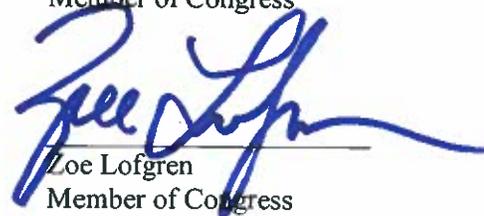

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress


William R. Keating
Member of Congress


John B. Larson
Member of Congress

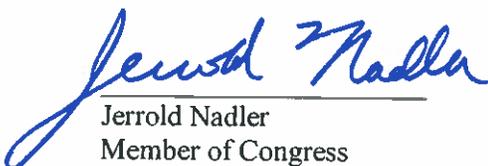

Ted Lieu
Member of Congress


Richard M. Nolan
Member of Congress

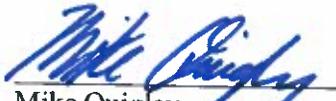

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress


Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

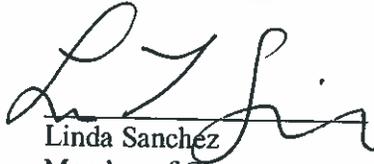

Doris Matsui
Member of Congress


Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

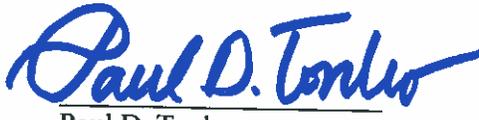

Mark Pocan
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Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

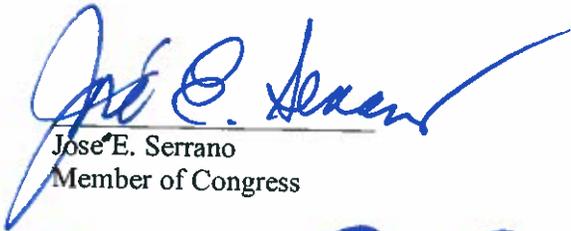

Niki Tsongas
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Linda Sanchez
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Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress

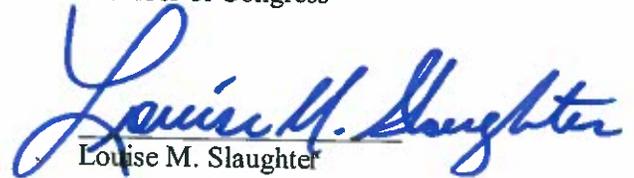

Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress


John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress

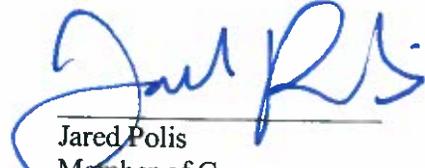

Jose E. Serrano
Member of Congress


Lois Frankel
Member of Congress

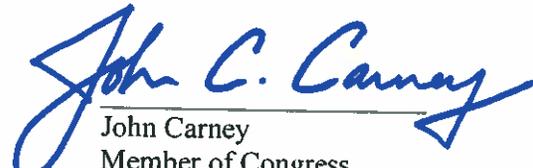

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress


Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress


Mark Takano
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Jared Polis
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Don Beyer
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John Carney
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Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress


Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress


Denny Heck
Member of Congress


Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress


Nita Lowey
Member of Congress

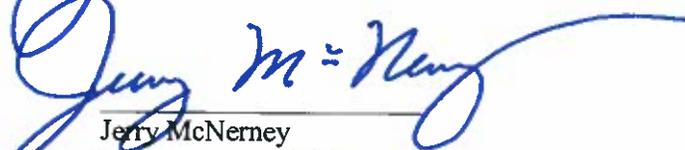

Rosa L. Delauro
Member of Congress


Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

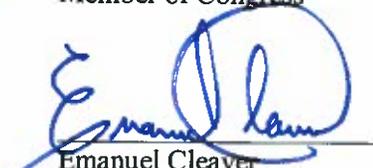

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress


Jackie Speier
Member of Congress


Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress


Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress


George K. Butterfield
Member of Congress


Emanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress


Joseph P. Kennedy III
Member of Congress


Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress


Timothy J. Walz
Member of Congress


Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress


Terri Sewell
Member of Congress


Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



Susan Davis
Member of Congress



Ted Deutch
Member of Congress



Scott Peters
Member of Congress



Kathleen Rice
Member of Congress