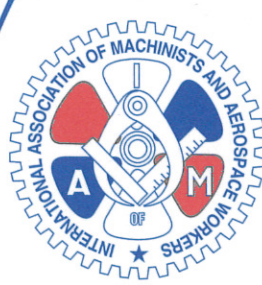
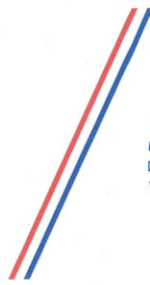


**International  
Association of  
Machinists and  
Aerospace Workers**



9000 Machinists Place  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-2687

Area Code 301  
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OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

January 12, 2022

Dear Senator,

The right to vote is a sacred pillar in our nation's democracy. I know I share the feelings of so many who are honored and proud to have this powerful voice at the ballot box. The right to vote is so critically important to the very fabric of what defines the United States of America. Unfortunately, a steady stream of state lawmakers are threatening our nation's democracy by enacting measures with the goal of thwarting millions from reaching the ballot box. The measures have been fueled by the U.S. Supreme Court decision in 2013 that gutted the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The time to reverse these radical assaults on our nation's voting rights is now. Defending voting rights should be a top priority for each member of Congress. That's why the 600,000-member International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) strongly urges Congress to move swiftly to pass the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (H.R. 4) and Freedom to Vote Act (S. 2747). These pieces of legislation would help reverse the rising tide of state's voter suppression laws we have seen throughout recent years. For example, the House-passed Voting Rights Advancement Act would restore key provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that the late Rep. John Lewis fought for, and put us back on a path toward racial equity in voting. Now it's up to the U.S. Senate to pass this bill, advancing it to President Biden for his signature into law. One vote, one voice – and everyone should have such as a right without intimidation or any other obstructions. Simply put, voter suppression of any kind is unjust and tears at very definition of our nation's democratic government that empowers its people to vote for its leaders.

The U.S. is a powerful democracy due to inclusion of its many voices that go to the ballot box, not efforts to stifle them. Several states have passed suppression laws that place hurdles in the way of the ballot box, including most recently states like Georgia and Texas. As a native Texan, I take strong issue with Gov. Greg Abbott recently signing Senate Bill 1 into law after the Republican-led legislature jammed it through in a special session. This unjust law sets a series of new restrictions for voting, including banning 24-hour voting and drive-thru voting. The law also restricts officials from mailing unsolicited mail-in ballot applications and sets new requirements for those tasked with helping those with disabilities at the polls. This is a blatant attempt by Abbott and the radical right to turn back the clock on voting rights when we should be making it easier to vote.

That's why the U.S. Congress must act with urgency. Passing the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and Freedom to Vote Act will restore the voting rights to protect the democracy of this great nation.

If you have any questions, please contact IAM Legislative & Political Director Hasan Solomon at (301) 967-4575 or [hsolomon@iamaw.org](mailto:hsolomon@iamaw.org).

Thank you,

Robert Martinez, Jr.  
International President