



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

August 19, 2025

The Honorable Kathleen Hochul
Governor of New York
New York State Capitol Building
Albany, New York 12224

Speaker Carl E. Heastie
New York State Assembly
Legislative Office Building 932
Albany, NY 12248

Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Majority Leader
New York State Senate
Legislative Office Building 907
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Governor Hochul, Speaker Heastie and Leader Stewart-Cousins:

We write as members of New York's congressional delegation in connection with the nationwide assault on the Voting Rights Act of 1965 ("VRA"). The toxic effort to obliterate what remains of the VRA threatens to disenfranchise millions of people in our state and requires an immediate response.

First, and most troublesome, the United States Supreme Court's recent requirement that a case concerning a majority Black congressional district in Louisiana be reargued makes clear that several conservative justices are determined to gut the anti-discrimination protections of Section Two. If this happens, the VRA would be rendered toothless.

Second, the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit has attempted to eliminate the ability of individual voters to challenge voting rights violations through a long-recognized private right of action. That case will soon be heard by the Supreme Court. An adverse decision would cripple the ability of voters to challenge racial discrimination in the electoral arena.

Third, the Trump Justice Department severely distorted the requirements of the VRA in a recent letter to Texas officials. It appears this letter is a pretext for the racially discriminatory, far right scheme to rip apart five congressional districts currently represented by Black and Hispanic members of the House.

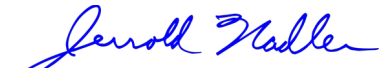
Our state recently enacted the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act of New York (“NYVRA”) to protect free and fair elections. In light of the nationwide assault on the Voting Rights Act of 1965, it is imperative that the protections of the NYVRA extend to every single congressional district in New York. Absent such action, the people of our state are vulnerable to the nationwide effort to disenfranchise communities of color and rig the congressional map.

For the reasons set forth above, we respectfully urge you to strengthen the New York Voting Rights Act, extend the full protections of this law to congressional representation in New York and take any other actions to protect the integrity of our elections. Thank you for your leadership and attention to this urgent matter.

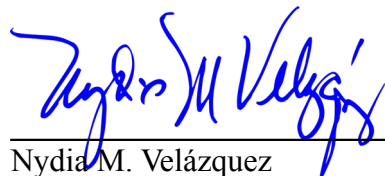
Sincerely,



Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



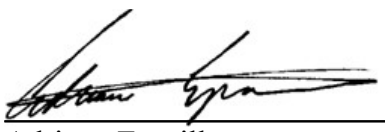
Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



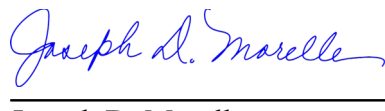
Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



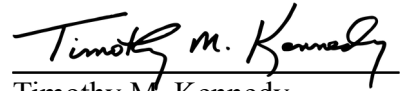
Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress



Patrick Ryan
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



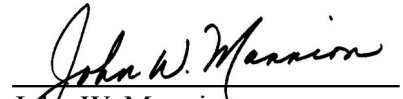
Timothy M. Kennedy
Member of Congress



Laura A. Gillen
Member of Congress



George Latimer
Member of Congress



John W. Mannion
Member of Congress



Josh Riley
Member of Congress