

The National Coalition for Accessible Voting (NCAV) applauds the introduction of the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act

For Immediate Release

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WASHINGTON, DC – The undersigned members of the National Coalition for Accessible Voting (NCAV) commends Representative Terri Sewell (D-AL07) for her championship and introduction of the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (H.R.14) and urges congress to enact this crucial piece of legislation, restore voting rights in America, and modernize protections once guaranteed by the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Legislative efforts proposed by states across the country, which are designed to suppress the vote of people with disabilities, people of color, young voters, and other minority groups have continued to skyrocket following a historic increase in voter turnout during the 2020 elections. The precedent behind enacting such laws on the state level stems from the 2013 *Shelby County v. Holder* decision, in which the United States Supreme Court struck down key provisions of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965. Adding insult to injury, the Court further weakened the law in its decision in *Brnovich v. DNC*, making it more difficult to challenge discriminatory voting laws under Section 2 in July of 2021.

Prior to 2013, jurisdictions that were subject to pre-clearance under Section 5 of the VRA, and jurisdictions with known discriminatory practices were required to seek approval before enacting voting changes. In the *Shelby County* ruling, the Supreme Court struck down the formula used to determine what jurisdictions are subject to federal pre-clearance. Immediately, jurisdictions with known discriminatory practices were free to make fundamental alterations to their elections without the crucial civil rights protections offered by federal preclearance. Following the enactment

of strict voter identification laws, voter purges, and polling place closures, voters have experienced an increase in being denied their fundamental right to have their voices heard on Election Day.

For the past several years, Congress has introduced legislation that would restore the pre-clearance provision of the VRA, including the [Voting Rights Advancement Act](#), recently renamed as the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (H.R. 14). Congress must act to protect and restore voting rights in America, as voters need the protections of federal preclearance now more than ever. NCAV urges the House to take swift action and pass H.R.14.

Sincerely,

American Association of People with Disabilities

Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL)

Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)

Autism Society of America

CLW

National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities

National Association of State Independent Living Council (NASILC)

National Council on Independent Living

National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)

Paralyzed Veterans of America

RespectAbility

The Arc US

United Spinal Association

World Institute on Disability