

CONCERNED
WOMEN *for* AMERICA
LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE

August 23, 2021

The Honorable
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative,

On behalf of the hundreds of thousands of women of Concerned Women for America Legislative Action Committee (CWALAC), I write in opposition to H.R. 4, the so-called John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2021, and urge you to vote against this bill.

At a time when Americans are forcefully rejecting efforts to divide our nation based on race with efforts, like the aggressive promotion of Critical Race Theory, that betray the very essence of justice by judging people according to the color of their skin, H.R. 4 would further aggravate race relations by inserting political calculations into this critical area.

Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. inspired Americans of all races and served as the catalyst for much advancement in race relations by famously saying, "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character." Unfortunately, proposals today, including H.R. 4, turn that principle on its head. H.R. 4 would force racial gerrymandering and make race the predominant factor in considering any new effort to protect election integrity.

At a time when election integrity issues are at the very top of voting concerns for millions of Americans,¹ (they are certainly at the top of our members' concerns) H.R. 4, as currently written, is designed as a political tool that will only intensify, not remedy, those concerns.

A recent *Rasmussen Reports* survey found 74% of voters support Photo I.D. requirements,² for example, but under H.R. 4, such efforts would automatically become suspect and subjected to a series of tests under the highly partisan direction of the Voting Section of the United States Department of Justice. The very language used in this debate, with proponents of H.R. 4 calling a voter photo ID law a "voting suppression effort," shows the divisive, partisan nature of the subject.

H.R. 4's expansion of the unchecked power of the U.S. Attorney General to object to legitimate voter integrity efforts among the states is most undoubtedly objectionable. In its most basic

¹ Paul Bedard, "Election cheating surges to top US issue, most want photo ID," *Washington Examiner* (August 04, 2021), available at <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/washington-secrets/election-cheating-surges-to-top-us-issue-most-want-photo-id>.

² "Election Integrity: 74% Of Voters Support Photo ID Requirement," *Rasmussen Reports* (August 4, 2021), available at https://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/general_politics/august_2021/election_integrity_74_of_voters_support_photo_id_requirement.

form, H.R. 4 is a cheap alternative to H.R. 1, taking power away from the individual states who are constitutionally charged with this role in voting and transferring that power to the federal government to second guess their every move for political gain.

Under H.R. 4's new calculations, more and more jurisdictions would be subject to preclearance based on amorphous "voting rights violations" at the discretion of political operatives. It is a partisan law written out of power-hungry frustration in direct response to *Shelby County v. Holder*, 570 U.S. 529 (2013), but which addresses no rational concern given the current high level of unprecedented voter engagement at every level of the election process.

For these reasons, CWALAC strongly objects to the premise and partisan political purposes of H.R. 4 and will score against this vote and include it on our annual scorecard.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Penny Nance". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Penny Young Nance
CEO and President