



January 12, 2022

Dear Senators:

Six months ago, more than 3,500 Catholic Sisters raised their voices in support of voting rights, saying, "Knowing that all people are made in the image and likeness of God, we cannot tolerate policies or practices that suppress voters' ability to participate fully in our democracy, especially Black, Brown, and Native American voters here in the United States."

Since then, two critical pieces of legislation—the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act—have passed the House of Representatives, but stalled in the Senate. These bills move us closer to being a democracy that represents, reflects, and responds to all of us.

An excerpt from NETWORK's [July 2021 letter signed by 3,685 Catholic Sisters](#) reads:

Minority opposition must not keep Congress from passing critical democracy reform any longer. Senate rules like the filibuster cannot be allowed to indefinitely prevent the passage of critical freedom to vote legislation that will protect our democracy. **We Catholic Sisters, along with people of good will across the country, call on the Senate to bypass the filibuster and pass this legislation.**

Pope Francis wrote in his encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, "What do certain words like democracy, freedom, justice or unity really mean? They have been bent and shaped to serve as tools for domination." It is up to us to make these concepts real. Similarly, the idea of "bipartisanship" cannot be twisted to obstruct reforms to save our very democracy. Despite the obstacles we face, We the People must keep striving to create the multi-racial, representative democracy enshrined in our Constitution. We call on all Senators to fulfill your oath to defend the Constitution, serve your constituents, and protect our democracy.

The Spirit-filled NETWORK community calls on all Senators to protect our democracy by making whatever changes are necessary to pass the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. Now is the time to safeguard our democracy and protect every voter's sacred right to vote.

As elected officials, you have a moral obligation to ensure equitable access to voting for every voter. **Protect our democracy. Take the necessary steps to contend with the filibuster and pass the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act into law before it is too late.**

Sincerely,

Mary J. Novak
Executive Director

Min. Christian Watkins
Government Relations Advocate

Joan F. Neal
Deputy Executive Director

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Government Relations Advocate