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May 10, 2021

Committee on Rules and Administration
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the 3.1 million members of the National Education Association, who teach and support students in public schools and on public college campuses across our nation, we urge you to vote YES on the For the People Act, S.1. Votes on this issue may be included in the NEA Report Card for the 117th Congress.

NEA members help prepare students for the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship. They want students to understand how our government works and their role in *making* it work—especially through voting. Yet, accessing the vote has become more difficult in recent years, particularly for African Americans and other people of color, people with disabilities, students, and senior citizens. In fact, 361 bills have been introduced in 47 states that would make voting more difficult, according to the [Brennan Center for Justice](#). The For the People Act would respond to this by:

- Creating automatic voter registration across the country, ensuring that individuals who have completed felony sentences have their voting rights restored, expanding voting by mail and early voting, and modernizing voting;
- Committing Congress to restoration of the Voting Rights Act, prohibiting purges of voter rolls, ensuring that discriminatory voter ID requirements do not prevent Americans from voting, and preventing politicians from picking their voters through gerrymandering; and
- Enhancing federal support for voting system security and increasing oversight of election vendors.

In addition, S. 1 would require any organization involved in politics to disclose large donors, and would allow everyday people to have more influence on elections through a multiple matching system for small donations. The law would also expand conflict of interest laws and divestment requirements to prevent members of Congress from serving on corporate boards; require presidential candidates to disclose their tax returns; and overhaul the Office of Government Ethics.

Our democracy has been greatly tested—most recently, on January 6. America’s future hinges on our ability to strengthen our institutions from further attempts—such as denying access to the polls, delegitimizing the results of free and fair elections, and using wealth and secrecy to influence politics—to undermine them. The For the People Act will help restore faith in our democracy, encourage voters to participate in our political system, and reassure Americans that their voices matter. Please vote YES on this crucial legislation.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association