

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 18, 2014

The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Holder,


We are writing in support of the Department of Justice's efforts to protect voters and take steps to limit the detrimental effects of laws aimed at restricting certain voters from exercising their right to vote in Wisconsin. We appreciate your recent comments indicating the Department of Justice will be looking into this serious matter and urge you to take necessary actions to ensure voting rights in our state are preserved.

As you know, Wisconsin's Voter ID law (Act 23) was recently struck down by U.S. District Judge Lynn Adelman, who found that the law violated Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act as well as the 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution. Wisconsin Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen has appealed the decision to the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

Act 23 is particularly harmful to our constituents because of the disproportionate impact it would have on seniors, students, African Americans, Hispanics and other vulnerable populations who are less likely to possess the forms of ID required under the Act. In his decision, Judge Adelman found that over 300,000, or about 9% of Wisconsin voters, lack a qualifying ID. This law represents a blatant attempt to disenfranchise voters. We are deeply concerned that this law would have a negative impact on individuals' ability to vote.

We thank you for your commitment to preserving the right to vote for all Americans, and we ask that you use every tool at your disposal to help us protect the rights of our constituents in Wisconsin. Overly restrictive voter ID laws such as Act 23 represent an affront to sacrifices made by civil rights activists who fought so hard for these rights. Voting is an essential right of a functioning democracy and we must oppose any attempts to undermine access to the ballot.

Sincerely,


Gwen Moore
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Mark Pocan
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Tammy Baldwin
UNITED STATES SENATOR



Ron Kind
MEMBER OF CONGRESS