

which precludes any serious process at the local level to verify the eligibility of the applicant to vote.

By making it illegal to scrutinize voter rolls with an interstate cross-check and by refusing any cross-check removals from the voter rolls within six months of an election, officials will be stymied in their duty to remove illegal and ineligible voters.

H.R. 1 is embedded with free speech infringements that even the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has harshly criticized saying it “contains significant flaws that are detrimental to the health of our democracy.”

H.R. 1 politicizes the FEC by turning the current bipartisan commission into a partisan entity and expands the powers of the FEC chair, effectively destroying the agency’s ability to ensure fair elections by leaving important decisions on what is acceptable speech to a single individual.

And by allowing the IRS to investigate and consider political views of an organization before granting tax-exempt status, this legislation empowers federal bureaucrats—with agendas—to decide which views should be rewarded or penalized.

The bill also mandates states to give the right to vote to all felons who have been released from prison. Yesterday, the Democrats tried—but failed—to go further with an amendment to expand voting rights to criminals currently serving time in jail.

H.R. 1 creates a 6 to 1 funding match for contributions of \$200 or less to a congressional or presidential campaign—meaning for every \$200, the federal government will match \$1,200.

The Congress can—and must—do better.

FOR THE PEOPLE ACT OF 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. SUSAN WILD

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Ms. WILD. Madam Speaker, I represent a Congressional district with nearly equal numbers of Democrats, Republicans, and Independents. But when it comes to the question of whether everyday Americans’ interests are reflected in their government, I hear the same message from my constituents, almost unanimously.

Regardless of political affiliation, my constituents seem to agree that dark money is drowning out the voices of working families. And they are outraged that lobbyists for the most powerful interests have a degree of access to our political system that is unheard of for an everyday citizen.

H.R. 1, the For the People Act, would begin the work of returning power to the American people. Among many important provisions, it would implement landmark anti-corruption reforms, including: requiring super PACS and dark money groups to disclose their donors, strengthening “conflict of interest” requirements for federal officials, and preventing members of Congress from serving on corporate boards. I’m also proud to have introduced the Lobbyist Loophole Closure Act as part of H.R. 1, which will enact more robust regulations around what constitutes lobbying and ensure no one can skirt federal lobbying rules.

Together, let’s restore the trust of the American people in their government.

FOR THE PEOPLE ACT OF 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Mr. CARSON. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support for H.R. 1, the For the People Act, and am proud to be a cosponsor of this bill. It will fight big money in politics, take on the power of special interests, end dark money, and ensure public officials are working in the public interest. It will expand voting rights to ensure we have secure, accurate elections and stop voter suppression efforts designed to keep people from voting based on their perceived political preferences. It ends extreme partisan gerrymandering by creating a non-partisan, open process to draw transparent and fair congressional district maps. This bill will also hold elected officials accountable by implementing tougher ethics laws to ensure elected officials are held accountable.

I am also proud to cosponsor an important amendment to this bill with my colleague Congresswoman SPEIER. Our amendment extends the statute of limitations on campaign finance violations. As a former law enforcement officer, I know that extending the statute of limitations is necessary to improve accountability and ensure that those who break campaign finance laws and then try to hide their actions can be brought to justice. As we have learned in recent events, violations of campaign finance laws may not be uncovered until years after the fact. Extending the statute of limitations provides investigators and prosecutors the ability to go after those who break the law. This is an important addition to H.R. 1, the For the People Act.

However, there is one provision in the bill that I believe could be improved, and I look forward to working with Chairwoman LOFGREN to make improvements. I was just recently made aware of concerns about voting machines that will need to be updated or redesigned after enactment of H.R. 1, including some equipment like Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) voting machines. I would like to make sure that we don’t exclude machines that are currently approved by the Election Assistance Commission without providing reasonable time and assistance to bring these machines into compliance with the new, higher standards of H.R. 1. In my home state of Indiana, many counties rely on DRE machines, and transitioning to the higher standards will require time and resources that I hope we can provide. Also, I have learned that the disability community has concerns about these provisions, so I would like to include in the RECORD a statement describing their concerns. I am committed to working with my colleagues to address these concerns so we can make voting more accessible for everyone.

DISABILITY COMMUNITY FEARS PAPER BALLOT MANDATE WILL HURT VOTERS WITH DISABILITIES

[Jan. 29, 2021]

WASHINGTON, DC.—Today, the undersigned disability organizations issued the following joint statement expressing concerns over a paper ballot mandate.

How ballots are cast in the United States varies depending on what different jurisdictions offer to their voters. Today, most voters in the U.S. cast their ballot by marking a paper ballot by hand or by Ballot-Marking Device (BMD), with some use of Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) voting machines.

Most American voters are familiar with the former, which requires voters to mark, verify and cast a paper-based ballot. BMDs use an electronic interface to aid voters in marking their ballot. Once the voter has made selections with the BMD, the device directly marks on or prints the ballot. The voter then typically verifies and casts the ballot into the same optical (or digital) voting scanner that hand marked paper ballots are cast. BMDs simply increase the accessibility of paper ballots by allowing voters with disabilities to use these accessible voting machines to magnify, ‘voice,’ and mark their ballots. For example, a blind voter cannot privately and independently mark a paper ballot with a pen, however, they can privately and independently mark their ballot using a BMD.

DRE voting systems, on the other hand, allow voters to use an electronic interface to mark, verify and cast their votes electronically with or without a paper back up. Arguably, DREs provide the best option for voting privately and independently for all voters with all types of access needs based on age, disability, language fluency, literacy, and many other individual circumstances, as guaranteed to all voters by the Help America Vote Act and Americans with Disabilities Act. DREs eliminate the need to handle or directly verify a paper ballot, which prevents BMD voting systems from being fully accessible to all eligible voters.

Despite overall reduced paper consumption in many areas of daily life, as a result of technological advancement, paper-based ballot voting options have become the preferred voting system to many who believe mandating the use of paper ballots is necessary to ensure the security of our elections. However, it must be made abundantly clear, that the ability to privately and independently hand mark, verify, and cast a paper ballot is simply not, and will never be, an option for all voters.

Given that paper ballots are already the predominant method of casting a ballot in America today, mandating paper ballots is frankly unnecessary. Additionally, any mandate of a paper-based voting system will inevitably harm voters with disabilities. A paper ballot mandate would: 1.) end all voting system innovation and advancement to produce a fully accessible voting system that provides enhanced security without relying on inaccessible paper; 2.) limit voters with disabilities’ federal right to privately and independently verify and cast their ballots and; 3.) ultimately segregate voters with disabilities.

Further, any paper ballot mandate that entitles voters to a hand marked ballot threatens the availability of BMDs for voters who rely on them to mark their ballots and drastically limits use of BMDs to voters with disabilities. This would result in segregating voters with disabilities away from the entire pool of voters by making them the only group of people that use a particular type of voting machine. Federally mandated segregation is problematic alone, but in practice, it also increases the likelihood that poll workers will not be properly trained on the machine, the machines will not be properly maintained or set up for use, and if the only available BMD is not functioning, there is no alternative option for voters who need it. Limits on BMD use will also saddle poll workers with determining who is “disabled enough” to use the BMD, a decision for

which they have no qualifications or legal right. Finally, if the ballot produced by the BMD is not identical to the hand marked ballot or the BMD ballot cannot be scanned and stored with hand marked ballots, the voters right to cast a private ballot is violated.

To be clear, no paper ballot voting system today, ready for widespread use, is fully accessible. Even BMDs require voters with disabilities to verify and cast a paper-based ballot, which does not ensure a private and independent vote. A fully accessible voting system by Federal law must ensure the voter can receive, mark, verify, and cast the ballot without having to handle paper. Most, if not all, market-ready voting systems cannot do this.

Before paper-based voting systems become the law of the land, the harm to voters with disabilities must be addressed.

Signed,

American Association of People with Disabilities, American Council of the Blind, American Foundation for the Blind, American Network of Community Options & Resources, Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs, Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living, Association of University Centers on Disabilities, Autistic Self Advocacy Network, Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund, National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities, National Council on Independent Living, National Disability Rights Network, National Federation of the Blind, Paralyzed Veterans of America, RespectAbility, Self Advocates Becoming Empowered, The Arc of the United States, United Cerebral Palsy, United Spinal Association.

JOE NOVOTNY'S RETIREMENT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, this week marks the end of an era as Joe Novotny concludes a thirty-year career in the House, the last ten as our Reading Clerk.

In a sense, it seems longer than ten years in that he assumed that role naturally with such quiet competence. He was unflappable in the midst of often frantic activity. He is the face of a critically important and complex set of activities that keeps the House legislative process moving forward. Even when it seems like we're not doing much, it takes a lot of people and a lot of moving pieces to make it look that way.

It's almost as though he was born for this important role, having literally grown up in the House. He was a House page, a program that allowed for so many young people to see firsthand the legislative process.

Joe's rise through the ranks culminated with his decade as House Reading Clerk. He has steadily and thoughtfully performed his duties in exemplary fashion. He has been personally warm and helpful, being a perfect representation for the many men and women behind the scenes that hold his place together.

I, along with thousands of C-SPAN junkies, will miss Joe, and we all wish him the very best in the next chapters of his career and life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JODEY C. ARRINGTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I was unable to be present for one of the votes, on March 2, 2021. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 52.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, March 4, 2021 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 9

9 a.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Lisa O. Monaco, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Attorney General, and Vanita Gupta, of Virginia, to be Associate Attorney General, both of the Department of Justice. SH-216

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine United States Indo-Pacific Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2022 and the Future Years Defense Program. SD-G50

10 a.m.
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine GameStop, Robinhood, and the state of retail investing. WEBEX

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the COVID-19 response, focusing on an update from the frontlines. SD-106

MARCH 10

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
To hold closed hearings to examine domestic and foreign threats and other challenges facing the Federal Bureau of Investigation. SVC-217

9:45 a.m.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Business meeting to consider the nomination of Shalanda D. Young, of Louisiana, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget. SD-342

10 a.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Donet Dominic Graves, Jr., of Ohio, to be Deputy Secretary of Commerce. SR-253

Committee on Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine climate change in the electricity sector and fostering economic growth. SD-G50

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Indian Affairs
To hold hearings to examine Native communities and the climate crisis. SD-628

Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Federal Courts, Oversight, Agency Action, and Federal Rights
To hold hearings to examine the Supreme Court and the Judiciary. SD-226

3 p.m.
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine military toxic exposures, focusing on the human consequences of war. SD-G50

MARCH 11

10:15 a.m.
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to examine farmers and foresters, focusing on opportunities to lead in tackling climate change. SD-106

MARCH 18

10 a.m.
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
To resume joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of veterans services organizations. WEBEX