



Open Letter to Congress: Reject Harmful Amendments to DC Voting Rights Act

In support of the more than half a million residents of Washington, DC, we urge Members of the House to vote for H.R. 157, the District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act of 2009 (DC VRA) without any amendments.

This bill extends a fundamental civil right to Americans and should not be amended with unrelated provisions. The Senate voted to overturn a purely local ordinance that regulates the possession of firearms in DC – a move which, had it been attempted with respect to any other locality in the country, would have sparked outrage. Given the opportunity, some members appear willing to offer a similar amendment in the House.

A debate over a bill to end the injustice of “taxation without representation” is an inappropriate forum for revisiting the District’s gun laws. We support DC residents’ fundamental right to voting representation in Congress and strongly urge support for a clean DC House Voting Rights Act.

Sincerely,

Julian Bond

Chairman, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

The Honorable Ed Brooke

R. Thomas Buffenbarger

International President, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers

Susan Bysiewicz

Secretary of State, Connecticut

The Honorable Bob Edgar

Marian Wright Edelman

President and Founder, Children’s Defense Fund

Peter Edelman

Professor of Law, Georgetown University Law Center

The Honorable Tom Davis

The Honorable Howard Dean

The Honorable Rev. Dr. Walter Fauntroy

The Honorable Dick Gephardt

Dr. Dorothy Height

Chair and President Emerita, National Council of Negro Women

Colleen Kelley

National President, National Treasury Employees Union

The Honorable Jack Kemp

The Honorable Susan Molinari

The Honorable Marc H. Morial

Rabbi David Saperstein

Director, Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism

Andy Stern

President of Service Employees International Union (SEIU)

John J. Sweeney

President, AFL-CIO

The Honorable Anthony Williams