

Members of the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear members of the 116th Congress,

Our democracy is out of balance. That makes it harder to solve the big problems facing our country, our communities, and our congregations. But right now, we have a real opportunity for change, and solutions that work.

As a response to the impact our broken democracy has on issues important to the faith community, the Declaration for American Democracy coalition was formed. This collection of more than 120 organizations has come together to press for top to bottom, systemic political reforms to return power in our government to the public, and a dozen national faith-based advocacy organizations are proud to join with them in that effort.

The current system allows powerful corporate and wealthy interests to regularly defy the foundational principles of fairness, equity, ethics, accountability, and respect for the rule of law. The unfortunate result is that our government has become more responsive and accountable to wealthy political donors than to the public.

As representatives of national faith-based advocacy organizations, we share a commitment to religious teachings that recognize each person as a gift of the Creator, and that emphasize the importance of the essential humanity and dignity of each person.

People of faith know that Washington is not representing their best interests when millions of Americans who are eligible to vote cannot do so because they are not registered, voter ID laws are used as a tool to suppress the vote, millions of Americans are disenfranchised due to a felony conviction, and a number of states are improperly purging eligible voters from the registration rolls.

People of faith know that Washington is not representing their best interests when congressional districts are drawn to achieve highly partisan results at the expense of fair representation for citizens.

People of faith know that Washington is not representing their best interests when executive, congressional and judicial branches' ethics rules have major flaws and are not subject to proper oversight and enforcement.

People of faith know that Washington is more accountable to corporate interests than the public because of their ability to spend huge sums of money influencing our elections and our government.

People of faith know that we can't fix the issues that the faith community cares about the most - such as poverty, immigration, climate change, and health care - until we fix our democracy.

We are proud to stand with the Declaration for American Democracy coalition in calling for:

- A strong democracy where voting is a fundamental right and a civic responsibility.
- A strong democracy that serves the people rather than the private interests of public officials and wealthy political donors.
- A strong democracy where our influence is based on the force of ideas, not the size of our wallets.
- A strong democracy where people know who is trying to gain influence over our representatives, who is trying to influence our votes, and how and why policy is being made
- A strong democracy that works to respond to the needs of all people and their communities, building trust in governance and equity.

We understand the importance of seizing the historic opportunity we face to repair our political system by moving immediately on a single package of comprehensive democracy reforms. Our faith values compel us to support these critical democracy reforms. We are ready to work with you to achieve this critically important outcome.

Sincerely,

African American Ministers In Action  
Conference of Major Superiors of Men  
Faith in Action  
Franciscan Action Network  
Friends Committee on National Legislation  
Islamic Society of North America  
Leadership Conference of Women Religious  
National Council of Jewish Women  
NETWORK Lobby  
Pax Christi USA  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries