



March 13, 2014

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Re: The ACA & the NVRA

Dear President Obama,

We congratulate you on the Affordable Care Act's landmark success in enrolling more than 4 million Americans in quality health care, and we look forward to the ACA enrolling millions more in the coming months. We are writing on behalf of the organizations listed below who make up the Democracy Initiative, a new coalition of organizations who have committed to building a broad based and strengthened democracy in the United States. Many of us have long sought to expand and protect the right to vote as a top policy priority.

We are committed to expanding voting rights for all Americans, as is your administration. In recent years, it seems that some have sought to make it harder for eligible voters to cast ballots, effectively restricting political participation and weakening our democracy. We believe that America is stronger when everyone who wants to vote can do so. However, we are concerned that the ACA does not currently comply with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA), which requires it to offer voter registration services. On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we urge your administration to make the necessary reforms immediately to bring the ACA into compliance with this critical voting rights law.

The NVRA requires that voter registration be offered as an integrated part of certain government services like drivers' licensing. By making it easier to register, this simple bipartisan legislation has been remarkably effective in adding new voters to the rolls, registering more than 140 million voters in just two decades.

We appreciate that implementing sweeping health care reform is a complicated and enormous challenge. Yet there is no question that the ACA must meet the requirements of the NVRA, as your administration has acknowledged. As staunch supporters of voting rights, we believe that it is critical for the ACA to meet these legal requirements now and offer voter registration to the millions of Americans who will be shopping for insurance on the exchanges in the coming months and years.

We hope there will be an opportunity for interested parties to meet with members of your administration to discuss the importance of expanding access to voter registration and the simple

reforms that would bring the ACA into compliance with the NVRA. Please contact the Democracy Initiative's Senior Strategist, Greg Moore, with any questions by phone at 202.675.7913, or by email at gmoore@democracyinitiative.org.

Thank you for considering our request and for making health care reform and voting rights top priorities in your administration.

Sincerely,

Action for the Common Good
AFSCME
Black Women's Roundtable
Black Youth Vote
Campaign for Community Change
Campaign for America's Future
Center for Popular Democracy
CWA
Demos
Greenpeace
Food & Water Watch
Labor Council for Latin American Advancement
MoveOn.org Civic Action
NAACP
NAACP National Voter Fund
National Coalition on Black Civic Participation
National Council of La Raza
NEA
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force
National Latino Farmers & Ranchers Trade Association
National People's Action
OurTime.org
Progressive Majority
Project Vote
Public Campaign
Public Campaign Action Fund
Rural Coalition
Southwest Voter Registration Project
Sierra Club
UAW
USAction
Voices for Progress

cc: The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary, Department of Health & Human Services