

“As we have seen nationwide in postponed or chaotic primaries, states are either unprepared or, sadly, unwilling to address COVID-19’s impact on our elections. The images of voters waiting in rain and hail in the midst of the current public health crisis just to be able to vote, and reports of absentee voters who did not receive their ballots in time, are antithetical to American democratic values,” **said Sonia Gill, Senior Legislative Counsel, National Political Advocacy Department of ACLU.** “We need baseline federal standards to ensure the safety of both the public and our democracy, and the necessary funding to give states the flexibility to meet the needs of their voters. The VoteSafe Act does this by helping to make voting safe and accessible for all voters, including those who will face the greatest impediments to casting their ballots during the pandemic. This legislation helps ensure voters are not forced to choose between casting their ballots and protecting their health.”

“As the world’s leading democracy, it is the responsibility of the United States to conduct fair elections at all times, and especially during a time of national emergency. It is critical that we ensure a voting process that is safe, secure, and open to all qualified voters, in spite of the challenges we face,” **said Arturo Vargas, Chief Executive Officer of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Educational Fund.** “NALEO Educational Fund is pleased to support this legislation that will provide welcome, needed federal support to the thousands of state and local election administrators who are working tirelessly to serve Latinos and all voters.”

“As a Nation, we have to ensure every citizen has a fair chance to vote. Since countless Native Americans do not receive mail delivery many Native Americans will not have the option to cast a ballot from the safety of their homes. The VoteSafe Act includes necessary and overdue provisions that will increase access to the ballot box for Native Americans even during these challenging times,” **said Jacqueline De León, Staff Attorney, Native American Rights Fund.**

“The COVID-19 pandemic has created extraordinary challenges for American voters this year,” **said National Disability Rights Network Executive Director Curt Decker.** “The VoteSafe Act of 2020 will improve the integrity of our elections, ensure the health and safety of voters, and expand opportunities for people with disabilities to cast a private and independent ballot.”

“Last week’s election in Wisconsin made evident that we must move quickly and decisively to ensure during this COVID-19 pandemic that voters will not have to choose between their health and safety, and exercising their fundamental right as citizens to vote. For African American voters who have been disproportionately affected by the virus and its deadly effects, and for whom the right to vote was hard won at the cost of thousands of lives, it is particularly important that Congress ensure that there are options like expanded early voting, as well as safe, secure alternatives to in-person voting, to ensure that every eligible African American voter has the opportunity to cast their vote in November,” **said Sherrilyn Ifill, President and Director-Counsel of NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.**

“In America, no one should have to choose between their vote and their safety. The recent election in Wisconsin clearly shows that changes are needed. The VoteSafe Act of 2020 moves the country closer toward safe in-person and absentee voting options which remain essential for

the 2020 elections to be truly fair and accessible. The bill provides urgent funding for states to meet their obligations to offer voters a range of options to guarantee full access to the ballot box. It also includes important protections for in-person voting for Native Americans, people with disabilities, and language accessibility. We must ensure everyone stays healthy while also ensuring that every eligible voter can register and cast a ballot that counts,” **said Vanita Gupta, President and CEO of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights.**

“Throughout my career, I’ve seen intentional voter suppression and intimidation used to minimize turnout and sway elections. If Congress doesn’t act, this pandemic threatens to achieve those same ends by preventing people from voting, especially communities of color or those in low-income or rural areas,” **said election and voting rights attorney Marc Elias.** “Senator Harris’s VoteSafe Act not only gives the necessary resources to make voting safer and more accessible, but it offers a framework that can make voting easier long-past the pandemic. With elections right around the corner, Congress should pass this bill soon.”