

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0919

July 09, 2021

Attorney General Merrick Garland
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Garland,

I write you to express my grave concern in your recently announced lawsuit against the State of Georgia over their newly passed voting law, the Election Integrity Act of 2021. The rationale of this lawsuit to “stop racially discriminatory provisions of new voting law”¹ is both knowingly deceptive and mindboggling. As the leaders of defending Lady Justice and the impartiality in the rule of law, the DoJ’s injection to racially charged language is irresponsible. The DoJ is using this bill as ammunition to divide the country and push the false narrative that Republican states are purposefully making it harder for minorities to vote in America.

As representatives of the upper echelons of jurisprudence and the DoJ, there is a universal understanding and agreement that laws guide our nation. Among those, the United States Constitution triumphs. As you are aware, the Constitution established that “The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof.”² As my colleagues on the other side of the aisle spent years proclaiming after the 2016 General Election, the need for transparency, security, and faithfulness in our elections is critical. Unfortunately, this level of scrutiny did not take place following the calamity of the 2020 General Election. While I feel it is unfortunate that the DoJ under President Trump refused to tackle election interference with the same vigor following the 2020 election, many states have taken it upon themselves to ensure security, transparency, and access for all Americans to vote.

The DoJ should not be in the business of leading politically charged and misguided legal charades against states engaging in their Constitutional obligation and purview to develop and pass election laws. States like my home state of Florida, our neighbors to the north, Georgia, and the Lone Star State have taken steps to improve their election laws. They have done so by expanding access to the polls, maintaining security protocols such as requiring photo ID, and preventing outside influence on the sanctity of our elections by protecting the chain of custody of ballots from electioneers and ballot harvesters. Today in America, it is easier and more secure to vote in states like Florida, Georgia, and Texas than in New York and the President’s home state of Delaware³, yet the DoJ has failed to pursue that fact.

Just as concerning are recent efforts by the Democratic Party to federalize our elections through measures like H.R. 1. As students of Constitutional law and purveyors of the rule of law, this unconstitutional and radical legislation should be of great concern to the DoJ. A bill like H.R.1 would effectively take a shredder to election laws that have proven efficient and effective and insert the heavy hand of government where it does not belong. It is troublesome to see the DoJ fan the flames of misinformation and race-baiting regarding baseless lawsuits directed at states and I fear actions like the one against Georgia could make their way to Florida or other states.

I am concerned to see that the DoJ has become weaponized by the Democrat party and that they continue to act radically rather than rationally when it comes to the security of our elections. All Americans should be troubled to see the Department of Justice, an agency established to enforce the law in the United States, is actively playing politics and undermining our election security.

¹ <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-files-lawsuit-against-state-georgia-stop-racially-discriminatory>

² <https://constitution.congress.gov/browse/article-1/section-4/>

³ <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2021/04/democrats-voting-rights-contradiction/618599/>

Sincerely,



Byron Donalds
Member of Congress



Lance Gooden
Member of Congress



W. Gregory Steube
Member of Congress



Marjorie Taylor Greene
Member of Congress



Bill Posey
Member of Congress

CC:

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