

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 12, 2018

The Honorable Jefferson Beauregard Sessions, III  
Attorney General  
The U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Attorney General,

We write to request that you immediately use the remaining authority outlined in the Voting Rights Act to ensure that Georgian citizens –especially minority voters – are able to exercise their constitutional right to cast a ballot and for that vote to count on Election Day 2018.

As you know, there are recent reports that the Secretary of State’s implementation of Georgia’s “exact-match” law is blocking at least 53,000 registered voters from being certified to cast their ballot in a few weeks. According to multiple press reports, 70 percent of the registrants on hold are people of color even though minorities constitute only 32 percent of Georgia’s total population. Last year, Georgia removed nearly 670,000 voter registrations; this is more than the total population in states like Vermont and Wyoming.

We also received accounts that additional voters experienced system delays and challenges when they attempted to register to vote online earlier this week. Despite multiple warnings by independent and Federal authorities regarding the security, quality, and vulnerability of Georgia’s online voter registration system, the current Secretary of State refuses to adopt contingency plans to safeguard Georgian citizens’ ballots.

Finally, we would be remiss if we failed to highlight the alarming conflict of interest in Georgia’s election management. Regardless of party, region, capacity, or ideology, Secretaries of State should recuse themselves from administering any election in which they are a candidate. This reinforces a key intent guiding Congress’ designing the Voting Rights Act as a proactive law; the statute provides the tools, guidance, and mandate for the Department of Justice to protect citizens’ voting rights before those who seek to dilute and deter minority voter participation reap the rewards.

For these reasons, we believe that the Department of Justice must immediately fulfill its historic, neutral role to protect the integrity and security of our home state’s elections. The time is now for your office and staff to uphold its promises and pledges to champion, protect, and preserve voting rights.

Mr. Sessions  
October 12, 2018  
Page 2

We appreciate your prompt attention to this grave matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,




John Lewis  
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress



David Scott  
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Thomas Hicks, Election Administration Commission  
The Honorable Christy McCormick, the Election Administration Commission