

May 18, 2021

Governor Brian P. Kemp
Office of the Governor
206 Washington Street
Suite 203, State Capitol
Atlanta Georgia, 30334

Dear Governor Kemp:

As a network of physicians from across the country committed to ensuring all people are able to access the support they need to live with dignity and economic security, we write in strong opposition to Georgia's new voter suppression law, S.B. 202. This sweeping law aims to disenfranchise Georgia communities, disproportionately harming Black, Latinx, Indigenous people, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and other people of color.

Each of us made a commitment when we became doctors to promote the health and well-being of our patients and our communities. We have maintained this commitment over the last year as we continued caring for our patients amid the stresses of the COVID-19 pandemic, and we maintain it now as we refuse to stay silent when states like Georgia pass harmful laws suppressing voter access.

Make no mistake: voter suppression is a public health issue. Every aspect of our health is affected by the environment around us, and voting is a powerful tool allowing people to impact their environments, protect their rights, ensure the dignity of their communities, and control their bodies. S.B. 202 profoundly harms the health of Georgians by allowing state governments to usurp the power of county election boards, adding new voter ID requirements for absentee ballots, permanently reducing access to ballot drop boxes, and criminalizing the provision of food and water to voters standing in long lines. In addition, this law targets Georgians already facing the most significant barriers to accessing safe and affordable health care — Black and Brown communities, immigrants, LGBTQ+ people, people with low incomes, people with disabilities, and young people.

As physicians, we are committed to fighting for the health and well-being of our patients. Voting is an essential tool for improving public health, and voter suppression is an attack on the health of our communities. We urge Georgia to promote laws that protect, instead of destroy, every persons' right to vote safely and without discrimination.

Sincerely,

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