June 5, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Majority Leader McConnell,

Across the country, the American people have made clear that they want Congress to enact meaningful anti-corruption reform. That’s why we pledged action on comprehensive campaign finance, ethics, and voting reforms as the first priority for the 116th Congress.

As newly sworn-in Members, we got right to work on the For the People Act (H.R. 1), the most comprehensive set of pro-democracy reforms in a generation, passing it out of the House in March. Following a campaign season in which corruption and the power of special interests was a central theme, H.R. 1 delivered on our promise to clean up Washington and create a democracy that works for all of us.

In addition to action taken by the House, every member of the Senate Democratic caucus has cosponsored companion legislation, S. 949, introduced by Senators Tom Udall (D-NM) and Jeff Merkley (D-OR). Now, it’s time for you to allow the Senate to debate and vote on this critical legislation that the American people called for in the 2018 midterm elections.

The For the People Act has three overarching components. It will end the dominance of big money in politics, protect and expand the right to vote, and ensure public officials are working in the public interest.

• Ending the dominance of big money in politics by increasing transparency in political spending, empowering small-dollar donors in our elections, and strengthening oversight of our campaign finance laws and accountability for those who break them.
• Protecting and expanding the right to vote by improving access to the ballot box, encouraging more participation in our elections, and promoting and advancing election integrity and security.
• Ensuring officials are working in the public interest by strengthening federal ethics and conflict-of-interest rules for members of Congress and executive branch officials, and slowing the revolving door between Congress and K Street.

Several provisions in the For The People Act were derived from bills that garnered bipartisan support in either the House or Senate when they were previously introduced. This includes the DISCLOSE Act to address dark money in elections, the Honest Ads Act to require digital ad disclosure, and the Prevent Election Hacking Act of 2018 to support upgrades to our election infrastructure.
Restoring faith in our elections and in the integrity of our elected officials should be a top priority that members of Congress from both parties can agree on. These reforms are critical if members of the House and Senate are expected to regain the public’s trust that Congress is acting on their behalf and attempting to tackle the challenges that impact their lives, like the skyrocketing costs of health care and prescription drugs, the opioid epidemic, and building an economy that works for all Americans.

Americans are looking for leaders who will stand up to corruption and fight the power of special interests in Washington. They deserve a stronger democracy that is focused on their priorities, and the For the People Act would give them that.

We urge you to bring this bill to the floor for an up-or-down vote.

Sincerely,

Max Rose
Member of Congress

Katie Porter
Member of Congress

Jason Crow
Member of Congress

Chris Pappas
Member of Congress

Sharice Davids
Member of Congress

Elissa Slotkin
Member of Congress

Dean Phillips
Member of Congress

Andy Kim
Member of Congress

Tom Malinowski
Member of Congress

Antonio Delgado
Member of Congress

Colin Allred
Member of Congress

Abigail Spanberger
Member of Congress
Cindy Axne  
Member of Congress

Sean Casten  
Member of Congress

Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress

David Trone  
Member of Congress

Haley M. Stevens  
Member of Congress

Angie Craig  
Member of Congress

Jeff Van Drew  
Member of Congress

Deb Haaland  
Member of Congress

Jesus G. "Chuy" Garcia  
Member of Congress

Lauren Underwood  
Member of Congress

Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress

Andy Levin  
Member of Congress

Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress

Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress

Mikie Sherrill  
Member of Congress

Xochitl Torres Small  
Member of Congress