



Elections & Laws for Life

August 20, 2021

Dear Representative,

I write to advise you that Susan B. Anthony List, on behalf of our more than 900,000 members, opposes and will score against H.R. 4, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. This bill jeopardizes the integrity of elections and undermines institutions that Americans count on to elect leaders, and especially pro-life leaders.

Elections are largely facilitated by the states, each with different laws passed by its state legislature to govern its electoral process. H.R. 4 would impose a federal takeover of elections and apply radical, unconstitutional, and authoritarian requirements on the states. Furthermore, it would likely make it easier to commit election fraud by eliminating commonsense, popular measures such as voter I.D., while encouraging spurious litigation from activist groups that would trigger mandatory reviews based on a facially partisan framework.

This partisan election takeover attempts to sidestep the Supreme Court's 2013 ruling in *Shelby County v. Holder*, which held the preclearance provision in the Voting Rights Act of 1965 as applied to particular states of concern to be unconstitutional. Speaking for the majority, Chief Justice Roberts wrote that "There is no denying...the conditions that originally justified these measures no longer characterize voting in the covered jurisdictions."¹ In order to bypass this clear decision from the Court, this legislation proposes a radical takeover of elections by applying preclearance provisions across all states.

H.R. 4 would require any state seeking to update, reform, or modernize their election laws—even just to move a polling place from a school's cafeteria down the hall to the gym—to submit its proposal for review by unelected bureaucrats at the Department of Justice, subject to whim and political bias. This subverts our state-based system of elections which empowers locally elected legislators to determine their state's election procedures.

Susan B. Anthony List exists to elect pro-life lawmakers and to enact pro-life policies and laws. H.R. 4 directly targets our mission and the cause for which pro-life Americans care so deeply. Susan B. Anthony List strongly opposes and will score against votes related to H.R. 4.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Dannenfelser
President
Susan B. Anthony List

¹ https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/12pdf/12-96_6k47.pdf