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PRESS RELEASE

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MADISON JOINS 100+ CITIES IN THE MAY 8TH NATIONAL JOHN LEWIS VOTING RIGHTS ADVANCEMENT ACTION DAY

Wisconsin State Conference of Branches - NAACP leads a VoterCade as part of the mobilization effort to defeat voter suppression and promote democracy

MADISON - Today, the Wisconsin State Conference of Branches - NAACP, Nehemiah Center for Urban Leadership Development, League of Women Voters of Dane County, Voter ID Coalition, Indivisible Madison, and Urban League of Greater Madison are hosting a "VoterCade" today to raise awareness and create energy around protecting the right to vote and limiting the influence of wealthy donors in our elections. **The event runs from 12:30 - 4:00pm, starting and ending at the Madison Labor Temple (1602 S. Park Street).** Speakers include Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes, Dr. Ruben Anthony (Urban League of Greater Madison), Alder Joe Maldonado (Fitchburg), Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway (Madison), and Matt Rothschild (Wisconsin Democracy Campaign).

Specifically, the event will urge Congress to immediately pass S1, the For the People Act; H.R. 4, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act; H.R. 51, the Washington, D.C. Admission Act; and to eliminate the filibuster. The national event is organized by the Transformative Justice Coalition and features more than 100 "VoterCades" held simultaneously in more than 100 cities.

Min. Wendl J. Harris, Sr., President and Earnestine Moss, Chair, Community Coordinator, Wisconsin State Conference of Branches-NAACP said:

"This is [not a new fight for us](#). We have been dealing with this issue long before we were able to advance the John Lewis Voting Rights Act nationally. In Wisconsin all of us must act NOW. Ms. Moss and I are encouraging citizens to join us and do something to demand that their elected officials in Wisconsin and Washington D.C. pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Act."

Barbara Arnwine Esq, President, Transformative Justice Coalition said:

"The scourge of racist voter suppression laws sweeping across our nation is a direct threat to the continued vitality of our democracy. On May 8th, Americans will collectively rise up in major US cities, share in the National Broadcast and take to the streets in their cars to loudly demand that Congress protect ALL voters by passing uniform standards for federal elections and restore the full protections of the Voting Rights Act."



State legislatures across America, including Wisconsin, have released an offensive onslaught of undemocratic legislation designed to specifically suppress the vote of communities of color and youth voters. Wisconsin already has one of the strictest voter ID laws in the country. Now, legislators are targeting absentee voting and early in-person voting and registration, as well as engineering voter purges and attempting to change how Electoral College electors are chosen. Wisconsin is currently considering legislation that would restrict absentee voting (SB203/AB192, SB209/AB117, SB204/AB201), make it illegal for employees of retirement communities to encourage residents to vote (SB205/AB179), and enable poll observers to intimidate voters and limit confidentiality (SB210/AB170).

Ruben Anthony Jr., PhD, President/CEO, Urban League of Greater Madison said:

"We must do everything that we can do to protect democracy by protecting voting rights. There are states all across the country trying to make it more difficult for citizens to vote. Our Civil Rights Leaders Like Congressman John Lewis would be totally disappointed if we took our eye off the prize. Let's make some good trouble about this."

United States Representative Mark Pocan said:

"As voting rights are under attack in state legislatures across the country, Congress has a duty to protect our democracy and ensure every person has the right to vote. Passing the For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act is an integral step to not only protecting access to the ballot box, but also rooting out corruption and corporate power in our elections. Every elected official, no matter their political party, should be fighting to make it easier for the American people to participate in our democracy—not harder. These bills paired with advancing D.C. statehood and ending the filibuster are crucial steps towards building a democracy for and by the people."

Chris Clements, President, League of Women Voters of Dane County said:

"The League of Women Voters's mission is to ensure that everyone has access to the ballot box and the information they need to make informed decisions. We stand firm in our commitment to that cause. We are proud to support the For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Acts. Both pieces of legislation are nonpartisan and necessary to allow eligible voters to vote and to prevent racial discrimination in voting."

Alder Joe Maldonado, Fitchburg

"The right to vote, further, the ability to easily access the ballot, is an essential part of our democracy. By making voting accessible, we are living up to what our country says that it is supposed to be. Those who seek to strip away that access are in action stripping away a cornerstone of democracy."

"In crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge in 1965, John Lewis risked his life to gain and protect the right to vote for every American," said **Daryl Jones Esq., Board Chairman of the Transformative Justice Coalition**. On May 8, we continue to honor his legacy by crossing every Edmund Pettus Bridge in America that separates American voters from their right to cast a meaningful ballot and demanding the passage of HR1/S1 and HR4.

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