

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 28, 2013

The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Attorney General Holder:

I am writing to join my colleagues from the North Carolina delegation in urging the Justice Department to investigate the discriminatory and retrogressive voting law (S.L. 2013-381) enacted by the North Carolina General Assembly.

The right to vote is the bedrock of American democracy, and our nation's history has been defined by the hard-fought expansion of suffrage to all eligible citizens, regardless of race, gender, physical ability, or socioeconomic status. North Carolina, like the nation as a whole, has struggled to overcome its own legacy of discrimination by adopting a series of reforms in recent decades to ensure that every one of its citizens has an equal opportunity to cast a ballot. These reforms have been overwhelmingly successful at expanding voter participation by historically underrepresented populations including minorities, seniors, students, and the disabled.

If it is allowed to stand, S.L. 2013-381 will undermine this progress and set back the cause of equal rights for North Carolina voters by a generation. Among other changes, the law eliminates same-day registration, greatly restricts early voting and provisional balloting, and imposes one of the strictest photo identification requirements in the nation. In the absence of any evidence whatsoever of widespread voter fraud in North Carolina, it is impossible to conclude that the law is anything other than a deliberate attempt to disenfranchise minorities and other populations by eliminating the very reforms that have encouraged their greater electoral participation.

It is also noteworthy that the General Assembly expressly waited until after the Supreme Court's *Shelby County v. Holder* decision to enact the law, avoiding the need for preclearance by the Justice Department. I urge you not to let such sweeping changes stand without appropriate federal review by investigating their potential discriminatory impact without delay.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



DAVID PRICE
Member of Congress