

# WEST VIRGINIA VETERANS FOR DEMOCRACY

## PASS THE FREEDOM TO VOTE ACT

## Dear Sen. Manchin and Sen. Capito,

As West Virginia veterans, we write to strongly endorse the *Freedom to Vote Act* co-sponsored by Sen. Manchin. We urge both of you to put this issue at the top of the agenda, and do whatever it takes to pass meaningful voting rights and election protections into law.

We joined together, started organizing, and founded West Virginia Veterans for Democracy earlier this summer to fight back against anti-voter laws being passed in states all across the country. Since then, the assault on the freedom to vote has only gotten worse – a tally by the nonpartisan Brennan Center for Justice now counts 30 laws that throw up barriers to voting passed in 18 states this year alone.

Many of us made significant sacrifices to protect our democratic republic, and did so with pride. And we're far from alone. Over ten percent of adult West Virginians have served, outpacing the rest of the nation.

Tragically, those of us who enlisted to defend our democracy are under increased risk from anti-voter laws here at home. Veterans and military families have increased rates of disability, poverty, and mobility. Common-sense and accessible early voting and vote-by-mail options are crucial tools that allow more veterans and military families to engage in the democratic process. The assault on voter access occurring is nothing less than an attack on our community.

We must act against other domestic threats to our democracy too, and we are heartened to see that Sen. Manchin's compromise takes action on those fronts. We did not sign up to defend the rights of politicians to gerrymander their way out of competitive elections, or for foreign money to escape disclosure and corrupt our process. We fought, and we fight now, for accessible and secure elections that allow every voter who wants a say to have one.

We applaud Sen. Manchin for finding a compromise proposal that everyone should be able to agree to. What's important now is getting the job done for the veterans, military families, and all Americans who are counting on you.

Signed,

**DEAN ADAMS**

U.S. Army

**WILLIAM HOSTUTTLER**

U.S. Army

**XAVIER SCOTT**

U.S. Army

**SHAWN BROWN**

U.S. Marine Corps

**LANAE JOHNSON**

U.S. Army

**SHAE STRAIT**

U.S. Army

**PESHKA CALLOWAY**

U.S. Army

**MATTHEW KERNER**

U.S. Army

**JAMES SWINSON**

U.S. Marine Corps

**SU CARROLL**

U.S. Navy

**SANDRA LYNCH**

U.S. Air Force

**ANTHONY VALENTINO**

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**JARRETT CARVER**

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**JAMES MCCORMICK**

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**CAROL WILLIAMS**

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**QUINCY DAN**

U.S. Air Force

**GINNIE MCNEIL**

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**RODNEY WILSON**

U.S. Navy

**MARK DASHER**

U.S. Air Force

**ROBERT PHILLIPS**

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**MOSSIE WRIGHT**

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**KEVIN DAVID**

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**JOHN PULLEN**

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