

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

February, 1982

Dear Friend:

It was President Lyndon Johnson who once noted that "if we condemn people to inequality in our society we also condemn them to inequality in our economy". In America, one of the surest and most important guarantees of equality and opportunity is the right to vote. It is perhaps the most cherished and fundamental freedom we enjoy in America.

As we begin the second session of the 97th Congress, I wanted to take this opportunity to let you know of my continuing efforts to ensure that every American is guaranteed the right to vote.

As you may be aware, the Voting Rights Act is up for renewal in the Senate. This historic legislation, signed into law by President Johnson in 1965, helped eliminate a variety of barriers that had been used to deny millions of Americans access to the ballot box. In 1975 the Voting Rights Act was extended for seven years, with my strong support. Extension of the Voting Rights Act will be one of the most important laws to be considered by the Senate during this session. As a cosponsor of S.1992 which extends the Act and has been endorsed by the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund, the League of United Latin American Citizens, and the American G.I. Forum, I am committed to a policy of justice and equal representation for all Americans.

I firmly believe the best interests of our nation are served when each and every American has full and complete access to the ballot. The right to vote is a fundamental freedom, and you can be sure that I will be doing everything possible to win prompt Senate approval for extension of the Voting Rights Act.

I appreciate this opportunity to share my views with you on this important matter, and I hope you will let me know if you have any questions about S.1992.

Sincerely,



Lloyd Bentsen

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

Floyd Bentsen
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