

Wednesday, June 2, 2021

Suzanne Clark
President, U.S. Chamber of Commerce
1615 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20062

Re: The U.S. Chamber's Silence on Texas Senate Bill 7

Dear Ms. Clark:

I write today to encourage the U.S. Chamber to break its silence and oppose Texas Senate Bill 7, the extraordinarily controversial and sweeping voter suppression bill. It would limit early voting, restrict local voting options, and increase barriers on mail-in voting — all thinly veiled efforts to disenfranchise voters of color. Before the bill's failure to pass in the state House, Texas state senators [voted](#) for Senate Bill 7 along party lines and it is now poised to be rammed through in a special legislative session.

Based on your recent public statements, you claim that your organization opposes voting rights bills that are 'partisan'. In the organization's own words from [April 13th, 2021](#): "Changes enacted on a partisan basis are the most likely to erode access and security and undermine public confidence and the willingness of the American people to trust and accept future election outcomes."

However, if that was the case, why is the Chamber not waging an aggressive lobbying campaign against Texas' legislation, which is highly partisan and designed to disenfranchise countless voters. If this bill does not meet your definition of partisan, nothing does. Given the U.S. Chamber's record of regularly praising and criticizing pieces of legislation, including state legislation, the silence on this effort is particularly deafening after not mincing any words in your ongoing lobbying effort to kill H.R. 1, the For The People Act.

Since Texas Republicans rushed to pass SB 7 and as Republicans in 14 states across the country enacted 22 voter restriction laws following the 2020 election, your organization has yet to issue a single press release or blog post in response to those election laws. In fact, the Chamber has only used its "Chamber On The Record" blog to defend your opposition to H.R.1.

We think the corporations affiliated with the U.S. Chamber and their shareholders deserve clarity on the matter, especially those that signed onto a [recent ad](#) in the New York Times opposing "any discriminatory legislation or measures that restrict or prevent any eligible voter from having an equal and fair opportunity to cast a ballot."

Texas Republicans tried to sneak their racist voter suppression bill through when they thought no one was watching – and there is still time to stop it. This bill is a cynical nod to Donald Trump's "Big Lie" as it seeks to make it harder for people of color to exercise the fundamental right to vote. Such nakedly partisan voter suppression efforts deserve widespread condemnation, including from the business community.

While your organization sends conflicting signals with regard to the rise in attacks on our democracy, two major business coalitions have issued letters demanding expanded voting access in Texas, with one calling SB 7 "[voter suppression](#)." Will the U.S. Chamber [join](#) over 100 Houston business executives in disavowing the Texas legislature's attack on one of our most fundamental constitutional rights?

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The U.S. Chamber has a choice to make: It can either stand by its own public statements against partisan voting rights bills and oppose SB 7, or remain silent and give its member corporations [another reason to withdraw its support for the organization](#).

We look forward to hearing from you on this matter, or at the very least a public statement condemning SB7 at this most critical hour. Thank you.



Sincerely,

Kyle Herrig

President, Accountable.US