



*A Passionate Voice for Compassionate Care*

January 13, 2022

United States Senate  
Washington DC, 200015

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA), the national leadership organization representing more than 2,200 Catholic health care systems, hospitals, long-term care facilities, clinics, service providers and organizations, I write to urge you to support legislation that will protect the right to vote of all Americans.

As a Catholic health ministry, we recognize that all people possess inherent dignity created in the image of God. It is in this reality that all people have a fundamental right to vote in order to participate fully in the political, social and economic life of their communities and to promote the common good. As our tradition reminds us, we support a democratic system which ensures the participation of all citizens in making political choices, guarantees the ability of all people to put forward candidates for election, hold elected officials accountable and replace them through peaceful means.<sup>1</sup>

This right is not only a basic human right and constitutional guarantee but is also fundamentally necessary to ensure our national and community health. For too long, lack of representation in our voting process has allowed systemic inequalities to grow, leading to poor health outcomes and lack of opportunities for millions of Americans. The current disparities in outcomes by race during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic are rooted in our failure to build communities in which those most in need have a voice and access to equitable health and community support systems.

Through our "[Confronting Racism Through Health Equity](#)" initiative, Catholic health providers across the country are committed to addressing the systemic causes of racism and focusing on health disparities among underserved and vulnerable populations. We recognize that this effort requires health providers to do our part to support systemic change in our organizations and in the communities we serve. It also means working to support policies which address the underlying causes of inequity, such as the right to vote.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 were significant steps in fulfilling the promise of ensuring participation of all people in their communities. We urge you to work together to pass voting rights legislation which protects and builds upon on these foundational efforts. In so doing, we can build stronger and healthier communities where all people can fully participate in building a stronger and more united nation to promote the common good of all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sr. Mary Haddad". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Sr. Mary Haddad, RSM  
President and CEO

---

<sup>1</sup> Pope John Paul II, *Centesimus Annus*, (May 1,1991), 46.