



May 27, 2021

**RE: Support H.R. 3233, a bill to create a commission to investigate the January 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol.**

Dear Senator:

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and the 56 undersigned organizations urge you to vote for H.R. 3233, the National Commission to Investigate the January 6 Attack on the United States Capitol Complex Act. The Leadership Conference intends to include your position on this bill in our voting records for the 117th Congress.

The domestic terrorist attack on January 6, 2021 will forever be remembered as one of the ugliest single days in our nation's history. In a desperate attempt to change the outcome of a lawful and fair election, a mob heavily comprised of white nationalists, private militia organizations, and internet conspiracy theorists – all of whom had been egged on by former President Trump's baseless lies and violent rhetoric – stormed the U.S. Capitol in an effort to stop the constitutionally-mandated counting of electoral votes. The insurrectionists constructed a gallows and noose on the Capitol grounds, chanted calls to murder the former Vice President, and came dangerously close to apprehending members of Congress. Several lives were lost, dozens of police officers were injured, and the sanctity of one of our nation's most important institutions was violated in a way that will have lasting implications for our national security and for who we are as a country. Sadly, to the communities we represent, this type of white supremacist political violence is not new.

What is even more disturbing is the existence of widespread evidence that this attempted violent overthrow of our government was not only foreseeable and preventable, but that it also could have been halted much more quickly than it was. While many of the people involved in the attack continue to face individual legal accountability, the significance of the attack on one of our country's most important institutions – and what could have happened, if one heroic officer had not baited the mob into chasing him away from the Senate chamber – demands a fuller investigation into how such a thing could have happened and what can be done to prevent it from happening again.

H.R. 3233 would establish an utterly thoughtful and solemn approach to investigating the January 6 attack. Largely identical to the commission that investigated the September 11, 2001 attacks, it would create a ten-member panel, with five members selected by each party. It gives the commission adequate resources and authorities on a bipartisan basis, including subpoena powers, to unearth facts in whatever direction the investigation takes it. And to ensure that the lessons are promptly learned, and to reduce the risk of politicization, H.R. 3233 requires the commission to issue its final report by the end of this year.

**Officers**

**Chair**

Judith L. Lichtman  
National Partnership for  
Women & Families  
**Vice Chairs**  
Derrick Johnson  
NAACP  
Farhana Khera  
Muslim Advocates  
Thomas A. Saenz  
Mexican American Legal  
Defense and Educational Fund

**Secretary**

Fatima Goss Graves  
National Women's Law Center  
**Treasurer**  
Lee A. Saunders  
American Federation of State,  
County & Municipal Employees

**Board of Directors**

Kimberly Churches  
AAUW  
Alphonso B. David  
Human Rights Campaign  
Rory Gamble  
International Union, UAW  
Jonathon Greenblatt  
Anti-Defamation League  
Mary Kay Henry  
Service Employees International Union  
Damon Hewitt  
Lawyers' Committee for  
Civil Rights Under Law  
Sherrilyn Ifill  
NAACP Legal Defense and  
Educational Fund, Inc.  
David H. Inoué  
Japanese American Citizens League  
Benjamin Jealous  
People for the American Way  
Derrick Johnson  
NAACP  
Virginia Kase  
League of Women Voters of the  
United States  
Samer E. Khalaf  
American-Arab  
Anti-Discrimination Committee  
Marc Morial  
National Urban League  
Janet Murguía  
UnidosUS  
Debra L. Ness  
National Partnership for  
Women & Families  
Christian F. Nunes  
National Organization for Women  
Rabbi Jonah Pesner  
Religious Action Center  
Of Reform Judaism  
Rebecca Pringle  
National Education Association  
Lisa Rice  
National Fair Housing Alliance  
Anthony Romero  
American Civil Liberties Union  
Fawn Sharp  
National Congress of American Indians  
Maria Town  
American Association of  
People with Disabilities  
Richard L. Trumka  
AFL-CIO  
Randi Weingarten  
American Federation of Teachers  
John C. Yang  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice |  
AAJC

**Interim President & CEO**  
Wade Henderson

We urge you to reject the false equivalencies and gross misrepresentations that have been raised by some opponents of this bill. Those who have voiced opposition to or “concerns” about the bill have either not read it or are hoping that you will not read it. H.R. 3233 was the product of months of bipartisan negotiations, and opponents have failed to point to any significant differences between H.R. 3233 and the bill that created the September 11 commission. It requires the commission to agree on a bipartisan basis on the process for hiring staff and the issuance of subpoenas, and explicitly includes a December 31, 2021 deadline for the completion of its findings. And there is no sound reason for the commission to investigate unrelated incidents, because in no other incident did a mob breach the United States Capitol in an effort to apprehend and murder elected officials – indeed, the only recent domestic terrorist incident that approaches the magnitude of this attack was last year’s failed plot to kidnap the Governor of Michigan. Yet H.R. 3233 reasonably omits that from the commission’s scope as well.

H.R. 3233 passed the House last week with significant bipartisan support, and it deserves the same in the Senate. We strongly urge you to vote in favor of cloture and final passage of the bill, as written, without any further delay.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Rob Randhava, Senior Counsel, at [randhava@civilrights.org](mailto:randhava@civilrights.org).

Sincerely,

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights  
A. Philip Randolph Institute  
AFL-CIO  
AFSCME  
American Federation of Teachers  
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)  
Americans for Democratic Action (ADA)  
Americans United for Separation of Church and State  
Anti-Defamation League  
Appleseed Foundation  
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)  
Center for Responsible Lending  
Coalition of Black Trade Unionists  
Code for America  
Community Catalyst  
Community Change Action  
Democracy 21  
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund (DREDF)  
Equal Justice Society  
Fair Elections Center  
Feminist Majority  
Freedom From Religion Foundation

Global Project Against Hate and Extremism  
Human Rights Campaign  
Jewish Labor Committee  
LatinoJustice PRLDEF  
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law  
League of Conservation Voters  
Louisiana Advocates for Immigrants in Detention  
MALDEF (Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund)  
Matthew Shepard Foundation  
NAACP  
NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF)  
National Action Network  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Center for Transgender Equality  
National Coalition on Black Civic Participation, Inc.  
National Council of Churches  
National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA (NCC)  
National Council of Negro Women  
National Disability Rights Network  
National Fair Housing Alliance  
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund  
National Organization for Women  
National Partnership for Women & Families  
National Urban League  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
People For the American Way  
PolicyLink  
Pride at Work  
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)  
SPLC Action Fund  
UnidosUS  
Union for Reform Judaism  
United Sikhs  
Voices for Progress  
Voto Latino