

As organizations committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), the XX undersigned non-profit organizations representing over XXXXX people are deeply concerned with recent legislation in Georgia and other states that is expected to disenfranchise many voters, including people of color.

Our organizations support creating opportunities for our fields, our members, and the patients and people they serve, including all people of color. We develop educational offerings; recruit and train the workforce; advance science; and advocate for better policies. We are dedicated in our efforts to build an equitable and inclusive community.

A key activity for all our organizations is developing and implementing an annual meeting that brings together thousands of diverse participants and exhibitors to learn, share information, debate, network, collaborate, and address key issues within our fields. Our annual meeting agendas feature robust educational, training, and scientific sessions, keynote speeches, and a range of engagement opportunities. We also feature opportunities to address diversity, equity, and inclusion and give back to our host cities and local communities of color. The economic infusion that we bring to our host cities benefits the local workforce, hospitality industry, and community.

For those of us planning events in Atlanta, the recently enacted voter law in Georgia gives us pause. Given our commitment to combatting inequities and fostering diversity, we seek cities in states that demonstrate inclusive policies. The new law is expected to disproportionately place voter restrictions on minority communities. It will also disenfranchise people who want to cast votes related to their interests in the very communities where they live. Policy like this simply goes against our core value of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

- Organizations that represent patients believe this law will result in some patients being forced to choose between their health and their right to vote. An individual with sickle cell disease, for example, could be thrown into a painful crisis due to temperature changes or other physical stress related to standing in line to cast a vote. People living with chronic and immunocompromised conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, and cancer also may not have the physical stamina to wait in line or may need opportunities to take medication, eat and hydrate.
- Organizations that represent health professionals, individuals with atypical or demanding schedules, and individuals who are hourly employees believe this law will affect their members' ability to vote because of limits placed on early and/or absentee voting, given 12-hour shifts and the need to be on call.
- Organizations that represent people with disabilities believe this law will impact safe and accessible voting options, including limits on requesting absentee ballots, mobile voting, drop boxes, and more.
- Organizations dedicated to democratic principles and participation in government believe this law will result in unnecessary barriers to vote and concerned that bona fide votes might be cast away because of political pressure, which is against what their organizations stand for.

- Organizations that represent scientists believe the legislation is not based on actual data reflecting the security of elections.
- [other examples from trade/member organizations signing letter]

A key tenet to democracy is the ability for citizens to have their voices heard by voting. This is why early and absentee voting, accessible drop-off ballot boxes, and mail-in voting is critically important and why access to water and food while waiting in line to vote is vital.

We urge the people of Atlanta and policymakers to consider this impact of this new law and find ways to create a more equitable, inclusive community that will attract visitors and meetings and will help this city thrive.

[List of organizations in alphabetical order]