



March 3, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leaders McConnell, McCarthy and Schumer:

I am writing on behalf of the National Retail Federation (NRF) to share our concerns with H.R. 1, the “For the People Act.” NRF believes this overly ambitious piece of legislation will restrict basic constitutional rights and erode traditional advocacy efforts for trade associations such as NRF, making it harder to represent our members and the communities they serve.

NRF, the world’s largest retail trade association, passionately advocates for the people, brands, policies and ideas that help retail thrive. From its headquarters in Washington, D.C., NRF empowers the industry that powers the economy. Retail is the nation’s largest private-sector employer, contributing \$3.9 trillion to annual GDP and supporting one in four U.S. jobs — 52 million working Americans. For over a century, NRF has been a voice for every retailer and every retail job, educating, inspiring and communicating the powerful impact retail has on local communities and global economies.

Greater participation in the political process unquestionably benefits American democracy, but we have serious concerns that the changes in H.R. 1 will have the opposite effect in practice. Specifically, Title IV of the bill contains several provisions that would chill the expression of First Amendment rights and deter engagement in our advocacy efforts on behalf of the retail sector.

While the overall legislation contains many significant changes to election law, our analysis is limited to Title IV of the bill. Not only does the inclusion of the DISCLOSE Act establish new and complex reporting and disclosure rules, but the bill so broadly defines the terms “political purpose” and “campaign-related disbursements” that the most likely outcome would be to suppress constitutionally protected speech. We are also concerned that enhanced disclosure requirements will become unnecessarily burdensome on NRF or our members and that

National Retail Federation

March 3, 2021

Page | 2

the sum total of these new burdens will stifle engagement in the political and legislative process. As key contributors to the American economy, retailers and other members of the business community deserve the right to have their voices heard on issues of national importance.

The “For the People Act” is a complex legislation that we believe requires further deliberation, and we oppose House passage of the measure. Congress should take a closer look at how its many provisions will operate in totality and ensure it does not result in unintended consequences and infringe on constitutional rights.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David French". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "D" and a cursive "F".

David French
Senior Vice President
Government Relations

cc: United States House of Representatives