

April 22, 2018  
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Dear Senator Harris,

I am concerned about lost voting rights. This country has among the world's highest incarceration rates and even more felony convictions resulting from plea agreements. These convictions fall disproportionately on black people and poor people. This has been seized on by racists and plutocrats to further reduce the political influence of these groups by keeping them from voting. The hallmark of our system is that every person affected by the government has an equal say in how that government is run but by disenfranchising felons we fall short of this ideal (by around six million people). At present voting rights are regulated by a complicated combination of federal, state and local regulations which in some cases has resulted in racist vote suppression from the grandfather clauses and poll tests of the past to the ID laws and felony disenfranchisement of today. The current congress seems more intent on people firing guns than voting.

*Please assure me that you will support voting rights for ex-convicts.*

I am very proud to be a US resident and a large part of that derives from our representative government.

Eric Babson