

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 19, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States of America
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

As a diverse coalition of congressional leaders, we write this letter with a sense of urgency and a call for action echoing the sentiments of our constituents and millions of others nationwide. We express our gratitude for your continued leadership on racial equity and reparative justice. While we appreciate your administration's commitment to placing racial equity at the center of your agenda, there is still much work to be done.

As members of Congress representing a broad spectrum of American society, we are united by the common goal of achieving racial equity and reparative justice, thereby enhancing our nation's ability to celebrate our shared humanity.

For far too long, the scars and trauma of racial inequity have marred the United States and hindered our nation's progress. Our collective history necessitates rectifying the wrongs of the past and present, forging a future where equity and justice are lived realities for all. As public servants, we stand ready and willing to work alongside your administration to achieve a more equitable and just future for all Americans.

In recent months, the U.S. Congress has introduced crucial legislation addressing systemic inequities entrenched in our society. These legislative efforts aim not only to make amends but also to build a stronger, more inclusive, and more democratic America:

- H.R. 40 / S. 40: The Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals and Recommendations for African Americans Act
- H.Con.Res. 44 / S.Con.Res 19: Urging the establishment of a U.S. Commission on Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation
- H.Res.532: Third Reconstruction: Fully addressing poverty and low wages from the bottom up
- H.Res.414: Recognizing that the United States has a moral and legal obligation to provide reparations for the enslavement of Africans and its lasting harm on the lives of millions of Black people in the US
- H.R. 2952: The Restoring Artistic Protection Act of 2023
- H.Res.733: Recognizing "Banned Books Week"
- H.R. 14: John. R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2023

- H.R. 4699: The People's Response Act
- H.R. 1255 / S. 3257: Sgt. Isaac Woodard, Jr., and Sgt. Joseph H. Maddox GI Bill Restoration Act of 2023
- HR. 765/ S. 223: African American History Act
- H.Res.988: Equity for All Resolution

This slate of legislation is historic and requires robust support and decisive executive action to move from potential to reality.

We call upon the White House to lend its considerable power to these causes. We ask for executive actions and orders aligning with and supporting these legislative efforts to achieve racial equity and reparative justice. Executive actions and orders would ensure these bills receive the attention they need to pass swiftly and with the backing they deserve.

We invite you to join a scheduled meeting to discuss strategic pathways for advancing this critical agenda. This conversation is not just about policy; it is about the people of the United States of America, the fate of our democracy, national unity, and national security.

Together, we stand ready to support and engage in the work ahead. With your leadership, we can turn the tide of history, heal the wounds of the past, and move forward with a shared vision of an America that truly embodies the ideals of liberty, justice, equity, and equality for all. Together, we can reap the shared dividends of solidarity and common purpose.

This is a defining moment for our nation. Let us rise to meet it with courage, commitment, and a spirit of collaboration.

Sincerely,



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



Cori Bush
Member of Congress



Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.
Member of Congress