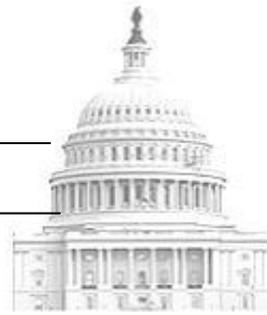




---

INTERNATIONAL UNION, UNITED AUTOMOBILE, AEROSPACE & AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS OF AMERICA – UAW

---



DENNIS WILLIAMS, President      GARY CASTEEL, Secretary-Treasurer

VICE PRESIDENTS: CINDY ESTRADA • JIMMY SETTLES • NORWOOD JEWELL

IN REPLY REFER TO

June 25, 2014

1757 N STREET, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036  
TELEPHONE: (202) 828-8500  
FAX (202) 293-3457

## **“The Voting Rights Amendment Act, S.1945: Updating the Voting Rights Act in Response to *Shelby County v. Holder*”**

### **Statement for the Record**

UAW President Dennis Williams  
**226 Dirksen Senate Office Building**

On behalf of the more than one million active and retired members of the International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace & Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW), I applaud Chairman Leahy for holding a hearing on the bipartisan *S.1945, Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2014*. The UAW calls on House Judiciary Chairman Goodlatte to also schedule a hearing on this critical matter immediately. We strongly urge the Senate and House to pass the legislation this summer. This important bill would repair last year’s harmful Supreme Court decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*. *Shelby County v. Holder* undermines the Voting Rights Act (VRA) by curtailing voting protections. S.1945 would fix some of the egregious aspects of the decision and helps ensure all Americans can exercise the fundamental right to vote without facing discrimination. As we mark the one year anniversary of this misguided decision, it is important for Congress to finally act to restore voting rights. Our country must protect the right to vote in order to maintain a well-functioning democracy.

The UAW has a long and storied history of fighting for civil rights and social change. The Voting Rights Act has been a mainstay against voter discrimination for decades. We are pleased to see that there is a bipartisan commitment to protecting the freedom to vote. S. 1945 represents what we can accomplish as a nation if we maintain our willingness to work together for the good of the American people.

While this bill is not perfect, it includes some major provisions that are imperative in protecting one’s right to vote. Specifically, the bill includes preclearance requirements for jurisdictions with a recent history of voting rights violations and adds transparency and disclosure requirements for important voting changes. We stand ready to work with all supporters of voting rights to pass *Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2014* into law.

DW/JN:sk  
opeiu494  
S0291