

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3203

October 14, 2021

Dear Colleague,

In a few days, the Senate will return for yet another consequential legislative session. We will continue working to advance President Biden's agenda and protect our democracy, doing so under challenging circumstances and with the slimmest possible Congressional majority. As I have said before, we are at a pivotal moment in our work to pass historic legislation. Passing meaningful legislation always requires hard work and determination, and I deeply appreciate all that each of you have done to bring us to this point.

When we return on Monday, we will continue to confirm President Biden's qualified nominees for the federal judiciary beginning with a vote on Gustavo Gelpi to be Circuit Judge for the First Circuit.

Later Monday evening, I plan to file cloture on the Freedom To Vote Act, consequential voting rights legislation that has the support of our entire caucus. Senator Manchin has been engaged in conversations with our Republican colleagues in hopes of advancing solutions on a bipartisan basis to ensure all Americans have their voice heard in our democracy. I hope that our Republican colleagues will join us in good faith, and as I have said before, if they have ideas on how to improve the legislation, we are prepared to hear them, debate them, and if they are in line with the goals of the legislation, include them in the bill. But Republicans must come to the table to have that conversation and at the very least vote to open debate.

We cannot allow conservative-controlled states to double down on their regressive and subversive voting bills. The Freedom to Vote Act is the legislation that will right the ship of our democracy and establish common sense national standards to give fair access to our democracy to all Americans. I thank Senator Manchin and the other members who have admirably sought common ground with our Republican colleagues. I hope Republicans now join us in common-cause to protect the integrity of our democracy.

As you all know, we have work on other important issues ahead of us. I want to thank our entire caucus for sticking together on last week's vote to pass an extension of the debt limit through early December, avoiding a first-ever, Republican-manufactured default on the national debt. We will continue working on this issue. We now must turn to the President's Build Back Better Agenda and continue to advance critical bills that will improve our nation's crumbling infrastructure, create jobs, lower costs and cut taxes for American families, while tackling the climate crisis.

I have said from the beginning that the execution of the two-track legislative strategy for the Bipartisan Infrastructure bill and the Build Back Better Act would be difficult. To pass meaningful legislation, we must put aside our differences and find the common ground within our party. As with any bill of such historic proportions, not every member will get everything he or she wants. I deeply appreciate the sacrifices made by each and every one of you. At the end of the day, we will pass legislation that will dramatically improve the lives of the American people. And we must aim to do that in the month of October.

The challenges facing our country give Congress the opportunity to demonstrate to the American people that we can meet these challenges and deliver results. I am confident that with our continued unity we will do just that.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles Schumer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator