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PRESS RELEASE

Attorney General Frosh Joins Coalition Fighting to Protect Free and Fair Elections for Voters

Coalition Files Amicus Brief to Strike Down Florida's New Restrictive Voting Law

BALTIMORE, MD (December 6, 2021) – Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh today joined a coalition of 17 attorneys general in filing an [amicus brief](#) in three cases challenging Florida's restrictive voting law, SB 90. The plaintiffs explain that the law, created after the 2020 election, erects unconstitutional voting restrictions, especially against mail-in ballots. They further explain that Florida's law, like others of its kind, has a discriminatory impact on minority voters. In today's brief, the coalition supports the plaintiffs' arguments that SB 90 creates barriers to voting in violation of the Voting Rights Act and the right to vote as protected by the U.S. Constitution in the First, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments.

"The Constitutional right to vote is the keystone of our democracy. Laws like Florida's SB 90 undermine and jeopardize the system," said Attorney General Frosh. "Attempts to disenfranchise voters are unconstitutional."

Florida's 2020 election saw high voter turnout, with a surge of participation by a young and diverse electorate. In the wake of the election, however, Florida passed SB 90. Among other things, the law severely reduces access to vote-by-mail drop boxes, makes it difficult for voters to get assistance returning their mail-in ballots, and requires that voters more frequently re-request to vote by mail.

Following the law's passage, three lawsuits were filed in opposition: *Florida Rising Together v. Lee*; *Florida State Conference of Branches and Youth Units of the NAACP, Common Cause, and Disability Rights Florida v. Lee*; and *League of Women Voters of Florida v. Lee*.

In the brief, filed in all three cases in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Florida, the coalition supports the plaintiffs, who argue that SB 90 has discriminatory impacts on minority voters in Florida, that it was passed with the intent to discriminate, and that the law burdens the fundamental right to vote. The brief also asserts that these claims deserve a full hearing at trial and that summary judgment – which the defendants are asking for – is not warranted. The coalition additionally argues that it is possible to pursue free and fair elections while expanding voter opportunity in ways that do not risk malfeasance, maladministration, or fraud. For example, New York and the District of Columbia have done just that with recent expansions to the right to vote.

Joining Attorney General Frosh in filing this brief are the attorneys general of California, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Illinois, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington.

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