



## NEWS RELEASE

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**Contact:** Marcus Silva, [msilva@naleo.org](mailto:msilva@naleo.org)  
(510) 456-5444

Luis Acosta, [lacosta@naleo.org](mailto:lacosta@naleo.org)  
(956) 460-3598

### **NALEO Educational Fund Applauds the Reintroduction of the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act in the U.S. Senate**

*"We urge Congress to work in a bipartisan manner to pass the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and help make our democracy more responsive to all of our nation's voices."  
— NALEO Educational Fund CEO Arturo Vargas*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund today released the following statement from Chief Executive Officer Arturo Vargas, following the reintroduction of the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act in the U.S. Senate:

"The Voting Rights Act of 1965 (VRA) has been one of our nation's most powerful tools to protect Latinos and other underrepresented groups from discrimination in elections and voting. Since the U.S. Supreme Court's 2013 *Shelby County v. Holder* decision, which gutted the heart of the VRA, states and localities have enacted a record number of unfair and restrictive laws nationwide. This trend seems to continue, creating obstacles to Latino participation in Election 2024, which will seriously weaken our democracy overall.

"We commend Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL), Senator Raphael Warnock (D-GA), and the co-sponsors of the bill for introducing S.4, the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2024. If passed, the bill will help modernize the full protections of the historic VRA by establishing a robust and targeted process for federal review of voting changes in jurisdictions nationwide, focusing on measures that have historically been used to discriminate against Latinos and other underrepresented groups. The bill's provisions are essential to preventing the further proliferation of voter suppression legislation — especially in parts of the country with increasing racial, ethnic, and language diversity, where there may not yet be a firmly documented history of discrimination.

"For several decades, NALEO Educational Fund has continuously advocated for the passage of state and federal voting rights legislation. The VRA has historically enjoyed support across the political spectrum, and we are committed to working with lawmakers to restore the strength of this critical legislation. Our organization will continue to be at the forefront of efforts to protect Latino voting rights, so Latinos are fully engaged as voters and can enjoy fair opportunities to choose their leaders.

"In the *Shelby* decision, the U.S. Supreme Court acknowledged that there is still discrimination in our nation's electoral process — and this bill would provide strong and robust safeguards to combat it. We urge Congress to work in a bipartisan manner to pass the John R. Lewis Voting

Rights Advancement Act and help make our democracy more responsive to all of our nation's voices."

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***About NALEO Educational Fund***

*NALEO Educational Fund is the nation's leading nonpartisan, non-profit organization that facilitates the full participation of Latinos in the American political process, from citizenship to public service.*