



**National
Medical
Association**

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National Medical Association Responds to the U.S. Supreme Court Ruling On The Voting Rights Act

Silver Spring, MD —“Section 5 has been the most effective enforcement mechanism in the Voting Rights Act, but without Section 4 Section 5 is meaningless. By declaring Section 4 unconstitutional the high court made a mockery of the Fifteenth Amendment,” said Dr. Rahn Bailey, president of the National Medical Association (NMA), the nation’s premier membership organization of African American physicians.

“We must continue to hold states accountable for protecting and expanding the voting franchise. The impact of this ruling however, is that many Americans will be discouraged from voting by states and localities that erect needless barricades around the ballot box,” he continued.

“Many people bled and died for the right to vote in this country, but today’s ruling imperils that right for too many groups of people. We should never forget ‘Bloody Sunday’ in 1965, nor should we forget the long lines at the polls during the 2012 elections in many places across the country, usually in places where Section 5 had prevented even more grievous disenfranchisement. Congress should proceed with dispatch to undo the damage done by this ruling!

Our organization stands ready to help the Congress, and our respective states, come up with meaningful solutions that would increase voter participation. Sections 4 and 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 should be upgraded, not abandoned,” Dr Bailey concluded.

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Founded in 1895, the National Medical Association is the nation’s oldest and largest medical association representing the interests of more than 35,000 African American physicians and their patients. The NMA repeatedly advocates for policies that would assure equitable and quality health care for all people.