

**NEW YORK
CITY BAR**

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June 26, 2006

Hon. Dennis Hastert
Speaker of the House of Representatives
235 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative John Boehner
1011 Longworth H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515

Representative James Sensenbrenner
Chairman, House Judiciary Committee
2449 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-4905

Re: Voting Rights' Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act – H.R.9

Dear Speaker Hastert, Majority Leader Boehner and Chairman Sensenbrenner:

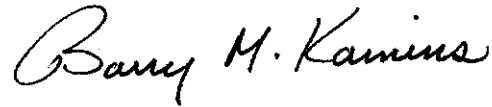
I am writing on behalf of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York (the "Association") to express our strong disappointment with the decision of the House leadership to delay indefinitely a vote on the above bill, which is vital to the continued protection of minority voting rights. We urge you to exercise your leadership to assure that this bill be put up for a vote without any further delay, before the July 4 recess. The Association expressed its strong support for this bill and the parallel Senate bill in a report submitted to the House and Senate Judiciary Committees on June 7, 2006. These bills have strong bipartisan support in the House and the Senate. We understand that delay of the vote on H.R.9 was in deference to a group of representatives who represent a minority of the House. It would be a blow to our democratic process and a severe setback to civil rights progress in our Nation if this minority were permitted to frustrate the desire of a majority of the House, Republicans and Democrats alike, to promptly enact this important bill.

In extensive hearings, both the House and the Senate have received massive evidence of the need to renew Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act in covered jurisdictions, to renew the Act's language provisions that are so important to the enfranchisement of minority language groups, and to enact the amendments contained in H.R.9 to assure that Congress' purposes in enacting the Voting Rights Act are fulfilled.

Immediate enactment of H.R.9 by the House (and similar action on S.2703 in the Senate) is vital to dispel any notion that partisan politics will be permitted to roll back the gains achieved by the Voting Rights Act. Enactment before the July 4th recess will give special meaning to our celebration of the Declaration of Independence on that day.

We thank Chairman Sensenbrenner for his leadership in sponsoring this critically important legislation and appeal to each of you to see that this bill is enacted by the House.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barry M. Kamins". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Barry M. Kamins