

**NEW YORK
CITY BAR**

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July 18, 2006

The Honorable Bill Frist
Senate Majority Leader
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: S. 2703 – Voting Rights Act Reauthorization Act


Dear Senator Frist:

I am writing on behalf of The Association of the Bar of the City of New York to urge that the Senate vote on and pass S. 2703 promptly, and in any event, by the end of July. S. 2703 would renew key provisions of the Voting Rights Act that would otherwise expire in 2007 and otherwise help carry out the Act's original purposes more effectively.

As you know, on July 13, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 9, the House bill identical to S. 2703, by an overwhelming bi-partisan vote of 390-33. S. 2703 has similar wide bi-partisan support. It is co-sponsored by 43 Senators, both Republicans and Democrats. On May 2, you stood on the steps of the Capitol with leaders of both parties to affirm your support for these bills. President Bush also has expressed his support.

Accordingly, there is no reason to delay a vote on S. 2703. A prompt vote in favor of the bill will confirm our Nation's commitment to protecting the voting rights of all American citizens regardless of race or color.

Sincerely,



Barry M. Kamins

cc: Senator Harry Reid
Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee
Senator Charles Schumer
Senator Hillary Clinton