

Letter Opposing Voting Rights

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6188 Dry Harbor Road

Rego Park 79, N.Y.

July 9, 1965

Mr Emmanuel Celler, Representative

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr Celler:

Why do you advocate no literacy tests as a qualification for voting? Is your district so saturated with illiterates that you fear the loss of your seat in Congress at voting time?

Literacy and good knowledge of English is required for foreigners immigrating to the United States and seeking their citizenship papers. What's the difference? Why discriminate against this group?

Besides this, how can anyone be sure that unscrupulous politicians won't direct illiterates how to vote—for their own ends by advising them which line to pull the indicators on voting machines on which name to write an "x" alongside on paper ballots of which they have no knowledge?

You are carrying this too far—I'd appreciate an answer to my questions.

Yours truly,

Charles A. Geiser

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