

## Statement to the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee. Please Vote Favorable on SJ 7 – The Democracy Amendment Resolution

2007-8 Our families lost their homes in a mortgage crisis that was directed to lure minority buyers into dangerous loans. Yet no wealthy bankers or Wall Street speculators were prosecuted; they were bailed out by working class taxpayers.

Now our families have been vulnerable to the pandemic – losing their health, their jobs, and their last shred of financial security. Meanwhile, 660 billionaires have seen their assets increase by over \$1 trillion. That happened because there is a Federal Reserve to inject money into asset markets. This money flows without red tape and arbitrary dates while our families wait in line for unemployment insurance – which sometimes never comes.

We know that money in politics forms a key link in the chain of influence that causes our working-class, minority congregants to suffer.

People are very upset and are looking for signs that politicians understand the depth of the crisis. A Constitutional Amendment to promote voting rights, put people over corporations, and regulate big money in our elections provides the signal we need.

Please report favorably on SJ 7, the Democracy Amendment Resolution.

Sincerely,

Delman Coates,  
Senior Pastor, Mt. Ennon Baptist Church  
Clinton, MD