The NBA Condemns Georgia's New Restrictive Voting Laws and the Recent Arrest of GA State Representative Park Cannon

The NBA has been on the frontlines fighting Voter Suppression since the beginning. Accordingly, we were outraged to learn of Georgia State Representative Park Cannon's arrest this week while attempting to fight Voter Suppression. Rep. Cannon was arrested after repeatedly knocking on the door of Georgia Governor Brian Kemp's office in an effort to speak with him regarding new restrictive voting laws signed by Kemp this week. She was arrested and charged with obstructing law enforcement officers by use of threats or violence and faces a second charge for allegedly disrupting general assembly sessions or other meetings of members.

This week, Governor Kemp signed into law new regulations that would place limitations on mail-in voting. In pertinent part, Senate Bill 202 will severely impact future Georgia elections by:

- Allowing the State Election Board to take over County Elections;
- Requiring Personal Information for Absentee Applications and Ballots;
- Requiring Run-Off Elections to take place 28 days after a General Election;
- Prohibiting Line Warming Activities (i.e., handing water or food to a voter waiting in line); and
- Invalidating Out-of-Precinct Provisional Ballots (i.e., ballots cast outside of an assigned polling location, but inside a voter's respective county).

These new laws are more draconian than Jim Crow Laws and horrendous for voters. It is clear that these new laws have been implemented to restrict clear access to the voting booth and are a violation of the constitutional rights of Georgians. The NBA plans to continue its Voter Suppression efforts as the fight for democracy continues and pledges its support to Georgia lawmakers seeking to ensure that all Georgians are able to cast their votes in every election with ease and confidence.