

House Resolution 741

By: Representatives Marin of the 96th, Abrams of the 89th, Hugley of the 136th, Brooks of the 55th, and Dawkins-Haigler of the 91st

A RESOLUTION

1 Requesting the support of the Supreme Court of the United States to affirm the clear
2 constitutionality of Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965; and for other
3 purposes.

4 WHEREAS, our political sovereignty is jeopardized when eligible people fail to vote; and

5 WHEREAS, the remedy and redress of grievances against the government is ensured through
6 the electing of representatives who voice the public's concerns; and

7 WHEREAS, the right to vote is the most important of all our civic rights and obligations; and

8 WHEREAS, American democracy is strengthened when we create and maintain voting
9 systems that ensure the ability of all citizens to practice civic engagement by taking part in
10 elections; and

11 WHEREAS, voter discrimination based on race is not just a thing of the past, but a current
12 reality that still persists in our state and is evidenced by the fact that in 2012 alone, the
13 United States Department of Justice objected to more than ten proposed laws that would
14 have had a discriminatory impact on voters if implemented; and

15 WHEREAS, the Fifteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution ensures that the
16 right to vote is not denied on account of race or color and grants the United States Congress
17 the authority to protect equal access to the vote, regardless of race or ethnicity; and

18 WHEREAS, the United States Congress has exercised the authority to protect the right to
19 vote by passing the landmark legislation of the civil rights era known as the Voting Rights
20 Act of 1965, which seeks to abolish discriminatory procedures and barriers that
21 disenfranchise minority voters; and

22 WHEREAS, Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act has contributed to the immense progress in
23 protecting and expanding the right to vote over the past few decades by ensuring that state
24 and local election practices are just and fair and continues to play a critical role in preventing
25 and addressing real threats to Americans' right to vote; and

26 WHEREAS, Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act allows for adjustments as conditions change
27 and is justified by the ongoing disproportionate enactment of discriminatory voting policies
28 in the presently affected jurisdictions; and

29 WHEREAS, the Voting Rights Act is a reflection of the promise of the United States
30 Constitution that all Americans have an equal right to vote without facing discrimination,
31 poll taxes, and other abuses; and

32 WHEREAS, the United States Congress has, time and again, reaffirmed the need for
33 proactive protection against abuses that might curtail the right to vote by renewing Section
34 5 of the Voting Rights Act; and

35 WHEREAS, Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act is currently under review by the United
36 States Supreme Court.

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
38 the members of this body request that the Supreme Court of the United States affirm the clear
39 constitutionality of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act as it has done on several occasions
40 since 1965.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
42 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the Supreme Court of the
43 United States, the President of the United States, the United States Congress, and the United
44 States Department of Justice.