

106TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 444

Expressing the sense of Congress that the right of all members of the uniformed services and their dependents to vote should be reaffirmed by having the Attorney General take all appropriate actions to protect those rights in the State of Florida.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 5, 2000

Mr. BONILLA (for himself, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress that the right of all members of the uniformed services and their dependents to vote should be reaffirmed by having the Attorney General take all appropriate actions to protect those rights in the State of Florida.

Whereas over 1,500 absentee ballots submitted by members of the uniformed services for the 2000 presidential election have been rejected in the State of Florida as part of a partisan campaign to overturn the results of the election;

Whereas these targeted efforts to nullify the votes of absent military personnel and their dependents are a partisan effort to disenfranchise the very people who defend our freedom;

Whereas a similar attempt to disqualify ballots submitted by military personnel occurred in 1996 in Val Verde County, Texas, as part of an effort to overturn local election results in the courts;

Whereas the Federal Government controls the freedom of movement of members of the uniformed services and their dependents, and therefore has a special responsibility to defend their rights to vote;

Whereas deployment outside of the home of record denies the defenders of our Nation any opportunity to exercise their constitutional right to vote other than through the use of absentee ballots;

Whereas the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act recognizes these concerns by requiring States to accept a Federal write-in ballot submitted by absent overseas voters, and the laws of all States and other jurisdictions which conduct Federal elections recognize the rights of members of the uniformed services and their dependents to cast votes in their homes of record;

Whereas the importance of vigilance in defending these rights is even more crucial at a time when military personnel are scattered across the world in a record number of deployments; and

Whereas the failure to defend these critical rights will only exacerbate the serious problems of the military in retaining and recruiting qualified personnel: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring),*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This concurrent resolution may be cited as the “All
5 American Voting Rights Resolution”.

6 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 It is the sense of Congress that—

8 (1) Federal, State, and local governments must
9 make every effort to count the votes of members of
10 the uniformed services and their dependents who
11 have submitted ballots legally and in good faith;

12 (2) the Attorney General should fully inves-
13 tigate all allegations of abuses against the voting
14 rights of members of the uniformed services and
15 their dependents which have occurred or are occur-
16 ring in the State of Florida; and

17 (3) the failure of the Attorney General to take
18 action in these matters would violate the funda-
19 mental principles on which our American democracy
20 is founded.

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