

After a careful analysis of new voter ID laws in Texas and South Carolina, the Department of Justice used its authority under section 5 of the Voting Rights Act to object to the implementation of new photo identification requirements.

In Texas, according to the State's own data, more than 790,000 registered voters did not have the ID required to vote under the new Texas law.

That law would have had a disproportionate impact on Latino voters because 38.2 percent of registered Hispanic voters did not have the type of ID required by the law.

In South Carolina, the State's own data indicated that almost 240,000 registered voters did not have the identification required to vote under the State's new law.

That included 10 percent of all registered minorities in South Carolina who would not be able to vote under the new law.

That is more than 1 million registered voters who would have been turned away from the polls in Texas and South Carolina if the Department of Justice did not have the authority to object to those photo identification laws under the Voting Rights Act.

Opponents of the Voting Rights Act claim that some of the jurisdictions covered by the law should no longer be subject to it.

They rarely mention, however, that the Voting Rights Act itself contains a provision allowing jurisdictions to "bail out" or be excused from coverage under the law if they demonstrate compliance with the law for the previous 10 years.

In 2006, the Supreme Court clarified and expanded this bailout provision.

As a result, more than 190 jurisdictions have bailed out of coverage under the Voting Rights Act. The fact that so many jurisdictions have been excused from coverage under the law proves two very important points.

First, the Voting Rights Act is having its intended effect. States and localities that previously had a record of discriminating against minority voters are no longer doing so thanks to the scrutiny of the Voting Rights Act.

Second, the Voting Rights Act is not over-inclusive. Jurisdictions that can prove they are not discriminating—over a reasonable period of time—will be excused from coverage under the law.

The Voting Rights Act is not about who wins an election. It is not about political advantage. It is about ensuring that every eligible American can vote and that their vote will be counted.

As long as there continues to be evidence that some people are being denied the right to vote, we have an obligation to remedy that problem.

The Voting Rights Act has done its job of protecting the right to vote for almost 50 years. Congress did its job in 2006 by developing an extensive record and reauthorizing the law in an overwhelming and bipartisan manner.

It is my hope the Supreme Court will now do its job and affirm the constitutionality of this critical law.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS TORNADO ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, this week marks the 1-year anniversary of the deadly tornado that devastated the towns of Harrisburg and Ridgway in Saline and Gallatin Counties.

I visited both of those towns right after the tornado.

I have seen my fair share of tornado damage in my life. But when I visited Harrisburg and Ridgway, I saw some things I have never seen before. I expected to see some trees blown down and shingles torn off roofs. Instead, I saw entire houses lifted from their concrete foundation and tossed on top of the neighboring house.

The loss of homes and property was really difficult to bear, but the real tragedy lies in the lives that were claimed by this tornado. Eight people died as a result of this violent storm: Randy Rann, Donna Rann, Jaylynn Ferrell, Mary Osman, Linda Hull, Greg Swierk, Don Smith and R. Blaine Mauney.

But despite this incredible loss, when I visited Harrisburg and Ridgway, what I didn't see were broken spirits. Instead, from the very minute this disaster took place, people came together to rebuild the community. The outpouring of support was amazing almost 6,000 people pitched in before it was all over.

And I can't say enough about the tireless efforts the emergency personnel who were there from the minute that the sirens went off. They were there to help under the most extraordinary circumstances.

I went to Harrisburg 5 weeks after my first visit and I was amazed at how much better the community looked.

Today, both communities have made incredible progress moving forward, thanks again to everyone engaged in the rescue and cleanup at every level, and during this entire past year.

I also want to recognize the hard work and dedication of: Jonathan Monken, head of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency; Eric Gregg, Mayor of Harrisburg; Becky Mitchell, Mayor of Ridgway; State Senator Gary Forby; and State Representative Brandon Phelps. They were there when their constituents and their communities needed them the most.

Today, when I see how much the residents of Harrisburg and Ridgway have done to rebuild their communities over the past year, I am proud to be from Illinois and proud to be part of this great Nation.

TRIBUTE TO DIANNE JONES

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to a friend and exceptional Illinoisan who recently passed away.

In 1949, a young woman from New York moved to Chicago to attend college at Roosevelt University. Her name was Dianne Jones, and she stayed for the next 63 years.

After graduating from Roosevelt, Dianne decided she wanted to teach, and she began planting her roots in the civil rights and labor communities. Along with her husband Linzey, she fought for civil rights and equality by helping to organize two Chicago-area chapters of the NAACP. Dianne then led the successful effort to desegregate the city's Rainbow Beach, and she even attended the 1963 March on Washington where Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

As a teacher, Dianne established herself as an advocate for educators and children by helping to found one of the first teachers unions in Illinois. She later served as that union's local president, as well as vice president of the Illinois Federation of Teachers. As a teacher and an advocate, Dianne spent her life fighting to promote equality, justice, civil rights and education in Illinois. And she enjoyed it.

Once, when asked about her career, Dianne said, "Everyone should get to work at what they would volunteer to do."

Dianne Jones was one of the lucky people who got to do just that. Those roots that she planted 50 years ago have continued to grow and multiply ever since.

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, the Senate Appropriations Committee has adopted rules governing its procedures for the 113th Congress. Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 2, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, on behalf of myself and Senator SHELBY, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the committee rules be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE RULES—113TH CONGRESS

I. MEETINGS

The Committee will meet at the call of the Chairman.

II. QUORUMS

1. Reporting a bill. A majority of the members must be present for the reporting of a bill.

2. Other business. For the purpose of transacting business other than reporting a bill or taking testimony, one-third of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.

3. Taking testimony. For the purpose of taking testimony, other than sworn testimony, by the Committee or any subcommittee, one member of the Committee or subcommittee shall constitute a quorum. For the purpose of taking sworn testimony by the Committee, three members shall constitute a quorum, and for the taking of