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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. RES. \_\_\_\_\_

Commemorating Juneteenth by calling for the implementation of safeguards to protect the integrity of United States elections and end voter suppression.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. VEASEY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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# RESOLUTION

Commemorating Juneteenth by calling for the implementation of safeguards to protect the integrity of United States elections and end voter suppression.

Whereas in 2020, laws that are intended to purposely discriminate, hinder, and prohibit the rights of Americans to vote are prevalent;

Whereas voter suppression laws disproportionately impact historically marginalized people, including persons of color, low income persons, and elderly persons;

Whereas these laws especially target and disenfranchise minorities and people of color in African-American and Latino communities, among other demographics;

Whereas as we celebrate the anniversary of Juneteenth, which marked the ending of slavery 155 years ago, we must protect the constitutional right of African Americans and other minorities to vote;

Whereas the fear of reverting back to the time of Jim Crow voting restrictions and the complete suppression of minorities at the polls can be fought by investing in our democracy;

Whereas the recent primary elections in States such as Wisconsin, Washington, Georgia, and South Carolina exposed many flaws in our electoral system that undermines the sacred right to vote in the United States;

Whereas the active threats posed by the emergence of COVID–19 have created new challenges and barriers relating to access to the ballot box for voters;

Whereas additional investments in new technology and improved election systems are crucial to the health of our democratic institutions and the administration of fair elections; and

Whereas more work must be done to remove oppressive voting laws and increase access to the polls to ensure that all Americans have the right to vote in the midst of the global health threats posed by COVID–19: Now, therefore, be it

- 1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—
- 2           (1) commemorates the ending of slavery in the
- 3       United States on June 19, or Juneteenth, in 1865;
- 4           (2) reaffirms the commitment of Congress to
- 5       honor the spirit of Juneteenth by supporting the en-

1 actment of policies that ensure fair and secure elec-  
2 tions for all Americans;

3 (3) condemns all threats against the adminis-  
4 tration of free and fair democratic elections, includ-  
5 ing all laws and policies that depress turnout, intimi-  
6 date voters, and deprive Americans of their right to  
7 vote;

8 (4) expresses support for credible, inclusive, and  
9 transparent election policies to safeguard the rights  
10 and health of Americans during this unprecedented  
11 pandemic caused by COVID-19;

12 (5) demands the expansion of vote-by-mail op-  
13 tions and the provision of postage-paid absentee bal-  
14 lots to registered voters;

15 (6) supports the implementation of policies that  
16 allow voters to apply to vote by mail electronically or  
17 over the phone;

18 (7) urges all States, territories, and localities to  
19 make the electoral process fair, safe, and equitable  
20 by ensuring more polling places are open to allow for  
21 shorter lines and practices that follow public health  
22 guidelines of social distancing;

23 (8) calls for the Election Assistance Commis-  
24 sion (EAC) to prioritize any disbursements under  
25 the Help America Vote Act of 2002 grants to

1 States, territories, and localities that are severely af-  
2 fected by COVID–19 and to other jurisdictions seek-  
3 ing funds to implement election policies relating to  
4 voting during the COVID–19 pandemic;

5 (9) recommends that the EAC create a bipar-  
6 tisan “National Election Task Force” to support  
7 and protect the elections held in November 2020 and  
8 voting systems from the threats posed by the  
9 COVID–19 pandemic and fight voter suppression by  
10 recommending and mandating measures relating to  
11 safe voting procedures, security, and funding; and

12 (10) implores election administration officials to  
13 implement these policies, especially in communities  
14 that have been disproportionately impacted by and  
15 have high cases of COVID–19.