

By: Bucy

H.C.R. No. 8

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The passage of the For the People Act and the John  
2 Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act would help to protect  
3 Americans' right to vote; and

4 WHEREAS, The For the People Act currently under consideration  
5 in the United States Congress reflects lessons learned across the  
6 country during recent election cycles, embracing measures to  
7 improve the safety and security of our voting processes and to  
8 strengthen our democracy by engaging more citizens; recognizing the  
9 exigencies of modern life in a 24/7 economy, the legislation  
10 includes many elements to make voting simpler and more convenient,  
11 among them at least two weeks of early in-person voting, online and  
12 same-day voter registration, and automatic voter registration at  
13 motor vehicle departments and other specified government agencies;  
14 it expands and standardizes voting by mail, provides funding for  
15 mail-in ballot tracking, and offers standards for ballot drop  
16 boxes; setting such national policies will ensure that every  
17 eligible voter has equal access to the ballot box, no matter where  
18 they reside; and

19 WHEREAS, In 2013, a landmark Supreme Court decision weakened  
20 the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by ending the preclearance process,  
21 which required jurisdictions with a history of voting  
22 discrimination to submit changes to voting policies for federal  
23 approval before implementing them; in response to the decision,  
24 U.S. Representatives Terri Sewell and John Lewis coauthored the

1 Voting Rights Advancement Act, which was renamed in honor of  
2 Congressman Lewis after his passing; this bill would restore the  
3 protections of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 while updating the  
4 coverage criteria to reflect current conditions and apply to all  
5 states; furthermore, the bill focuses the preclearance process on a  
6 set of discriminatory measures, requires reasonable public notice  
7 for voting changes, and allows the Attorney General to request the  
8 presence of federal observers in places at risk of racial  
9 discrimination in voting; and

10 WHEREAS, The United States is the world's leading democracy,  
11 and we must continue to set the standard for free, fair, and  
12 accessible elections in which every vote is counted; now,  
13 therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas,  
15 1st Called Session, hereby respectfully urge the United States  
16 Congress to pass the For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting  
17 Rights Advancement Act; and, be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official  
19 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to  
20 the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of  
21 Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the  
22 members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that  
23 this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a  
24 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.