

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. HJ0004

Self-determination for Puerto Rico.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Esquibel, Illoway and
McGraw and Senator(s) Hanes, Job and Mockler

A Bill

for

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION requesting Congress to enact legislation
2 that would define the political status options available to
3 the United States citizens of Puerto Rico and authorize a
4 plebiscite to provide an opportunity for Puerto Ricans to
5 make an informed decision regarding the island's future
6 political status.

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8 WHEREAS, on December 10, 1898, the Treaty of Paris was
9 signed by the United States and later ratified by the
10 United States on February 6, 1899, formally concluding the
11 Spanish-American War and establishing Puerto Rico as a
12 territory of the United States; and

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14 WHEREAS, on March 2, 1917, President Woodrow Wilson signed
15 the Puerto Rican Federal Relations Act, popularly known as
16 the Jones Act, which extended United States citizenship to

1 the residents of Puerto Rico, but did not provide them with
2 voting representation in the United States Congress or give
3 them the right to vote for the president of the United
4 States; and

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6 WHEREAS, since 1917, two hundred thousand (200,000) United
7 States citizens in Puerto Rico have served valiantly in
8 every war and armed conflict in which our nation has fought
9 in defense of democratic principles and self-determination;
10 and

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12 WHEREAS, four (4) heroic Puerto Ricans, Hector Santiago-
13 Colon, Euripides Rubio, Carlos James Lozada and Luis
14 Fernando Garcia, have been awarded the Congressional Medal
15 of Honor for their valor in defending American democracy
16 and freedoms; and

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18 WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Wyoming recognizes
19 the many social, economic and political contributions that
20 the 3.8 million United States citizens residing in Puerto
21 Rico make to preserve and enhance this nations' democratic
22 values; and

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1 WHEREAS, the State of Wyoming has a Puerto Rican community
2 and an ever-increasing Latino population from which many of
3 our state's business, cultural and political leaders are
4 drawn; and

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6 WHEREAS, in 1997, the Legislature of Puerto Rico formally
7 petitioned the United States Congress to respond to the
8 democratic aspirations of the United States of the United
9 States citizens of Puerto Rico by means of a federally
10 sanctioned plebiscite to be held no later than 1998 and
11 Congress has not yet responded to the petition; and

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13 WHEREAS, as we begin a new millennium, we recognize that
14 the time has come for Puerto Rico to exercise its right to
15 self-determination regarding its desire to attain full
16 self-government within the context of a congressionally
17 authorized plebiscite; and

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19 WHEREAS, the Wyoming Legislature urges all citizens of
20 Wyoming and of the United States to support the enactment
21 of a federal law leading to full self-government for Puerto
22 Rico.

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1 *Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved By The Members of the*
2 *Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

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4 **Section 1.** That the Legislature of the State of
5 Wyoming requests that the United States Congress and the
6 President of the United States enact legislation that would
7 define the political status options available to the United
8 States citizens of Puerto Rico and authorize a plebiscite
9 to provide an opportunity for Puerto Ricans to make an
10 informed decision regarding the island's future political
11 status.

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13 **Section 2.** That the Legislature of the State of
14 Wyoming request the Wyoming congressional delegation to
15 actively promote and support timely action on this
16 important national issue.

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1 **Section 3.** That the Secretary of State of Wyoming
2 transmit copies of this resolution to the President and
3 Vice-President of the United States, the President of the
4 Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of
5 the United States Congress and to the Governor of Puerto
6 Rico.

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(END)