



Vote by division of assembly  
Those in favor please rise  
Those opposed

Passed

07/25/14

### Resolution

#### Supporting

### The Admission of Puerto Rico as a State of the Union

**Whereas,** Puerto Rico has been a territory of the United States since 1898 and Puerto Ricans have been U.S. citizens since 1917; and

**Whereas,** The 3.6 million people of Puerto Rico do not have democracy at the national level because they cannot vote for the President, are not represented in the Senate, and have only one representative in the House of Representatives who can only vote in committees; and

**Whereas,** under Federal law, Puerto Rico exercises authority over local matters similar to that of a State but remains subject to the broad powers of Congress to govern territories in local as well as national matters; and

**Whereas,** Because of territory status misleadingly called "Commonwealth," the Federal Government can treat Puerto Rico and its residents worse than the States, the District of Columbia, and their residents; and

**Whereas,** More than 260,000 Puerto Ricans have served in the Armed Forces since the First World War and more than 2,000 have made the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation and democracy around the world; and

**Whereas,** The question of Puerto Rico's ultimate status is the fundamental question regarding the islands; and

**Whereas,** Under territory status, Puerto Rico's economy has been worse than the economy of the States and Puerto Rico and Puerto Ricans cannot realize their true potential without equality with the rest of America and with other Americans; and

**Whereas,** All large territories other than Puerto Rico have become States, the last being Arizona, New Mexico, Hawaii, and Alaska; and

**Whereas**, along with the elections for office in 2012, Puerto Rico held a plebiscite in which voters rejected territory status by 54% and chose statehood among the alternatives by 61.2%;

**Whereas**, the United States is history's champion of democracy and self-determination; and

**Whereas**, the Republican Party has long pledged to support statehood for Puerto Rico if Puerto Rico voted for it and this policy has been championed by such leaders as Presidents Ford, Reagan, and George H.W. Bush, Mitt Romney, Representatives Don Young, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, and Raul Labrador, and Sharon Day, among many others; and

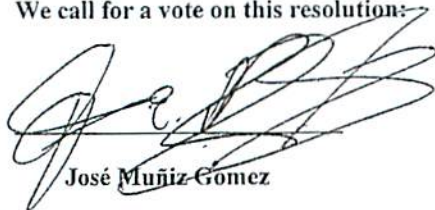
**Whereas**, President Obama promised to support a Puerto Rican status choice and the White House hailed the results of the plebiscite, including recognizing that statehood won among the alternatives to territory status, but the Obama Administration proposed and the Congress has authorized a confirmation plebiscite in Puerto Rico because the Popular Democratic Party governor of the territory refuses to accept the free self-determination decision of Puerto Ricans;

**Now, Therefore, be it Resolved,**

That the National Teenage Republicans, including its entire national, State, and local leadership urge that --

- (1) Another plebiscite in Puerto Rico be a confirmation vote on statehood and
- (2) The President and the Congress of the United States continue to act to enable Puerto Rico to be admitted into the Union as a State and to enable Puerto Ricans to obtain equal rights and responsibilities with their fellow citizens of the existing States.

We call for a vote on this resolution:



Handwritten signature of José Muñiz-Gómez in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

José Muñiz-Gómez  
High School Republicans of Puerto Rico Chairman



Handwritten signature of Barby Wells in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Barby Wells

National Teenage Republicans (TARS) Chairperson

42-2-2