



League of United Latin American Citizens

February 25, 2015

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U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the country's oldest and largest Hispanic organization, I urge you to support H.R. 727, the Puerto Rico Statehood Admission Process Act, as a way to finally include Puerto Rico as a federal state and give all U.S. citizens on the island the political representation which they have been deprived of until now.

On November 6, 2012, the Government of Puerto Rico held a referendum. 53.97 percent of U.S. citizens in Puerto Rico voted against continued territorial status and 61.16 percent voted to become a state. Like all other Latinos elsewhere in the nation, Hispanics in Puerto Rico are striving to define their role in American society. In the tradition of American democracy, our government should honor the will of U.S. citizens in Puerto Rico by affording them the right to define themselves with the power of the vote. We have one-hundred-forty seven LULAC councils on the island and a large number of our members and councils in the mainland United States can trace their roots to the island.

As a civil rights organization, LULAC has strongly championed for the equality of all United States citizens. As such, LULAC urges the House to enhance, provide, and protect the most basic of civil rights for the people of Puerto Rico by supporting H.R. 727. Without passage of this crucial legislation, U.S. citizens in Puerto Rico will continue to be denied the ability to vote for President, to have voting representation in both the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives, and will continue to be treated unequally under federal programs.

If passed, the U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico would be given the same rights afforded to all American citizens across the 50 states. More specifically passage of the bill would ensure that:

- U.S. citizens in Puerto Rico are fully integrated with the rest of the 50 states by making Puerto Rico the 51st state
- All provisions of the Constitution of the United States that apply to the States would equally apply to Puerto Rico.
- U.S. citizens in Puerto Rico are represented in the United States Senate and House of Representatives.
- U.S. citizens in Puerto Rico are able to vote for President and Vice-President by affording Puerto Rico votes in the Electoral College.

For these reasons we urge you to support H.R 727, the Puerto Rico Statehood Admission Process Act, as a pathway to statehood and to eradicate the economic and civil rights inequalities that Puerto Ricans currently face.

Sincerely,

Margaret Moran
LULAC National President