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A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION BY THE CONGRESSIONAL REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP PROVIDING A SELF-DETERMINATION PROCESS FOR PUERTO RICO

Passed on Friday, July 11, 1997
by the Young Republican National Federation
1997 Bi-Annual National Convention
San Juan, Puerto Rico

The members of the Young Republican National Federation at their Bi-Annual Convention taking place on July 9-13, 1997, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, the largest southeasternmost point of the United States, state the following:

WHEREAS, in 1898, Puerto Rico became a territory of the United States as a consequence of the signing of the Treaty of Paris, which formally ended the Spanish-American War.

WHEREAS, since President Theodore Roosevelt proposed to extend United States Citizenship to the residents of Puerto Rico in 1905, which Congress conferred in 1917, the United States Citizens of Puerto Rico have been contributing immeasurably to the Nation in cultural, social, economic, and political terms, with thousands of them valiantly serving in every military conflict in which our Nation has engaged in this century.

WHEREAS, Congress has plenary powers over Puerto Rico pursuant to the Territorial Clause of the United States Constitution, and accordingly it can expand, alter, or replace the local constitutional self-government authorized for Puerto Rico in 1950 and thereafter conditionally approved by Congress in 1952.

WHEREAS, under the present limited local self-government, the 3.8 million American citizens who reside in Puerto Rico cannot vote for the President of the United States and their only representative in Congress has no voting power on the Floor of the House. The residents of Puerto Rico have not been extended the same obligations and benefits and duties and responsibilities under Federal law as the rest of the citizens of the Union.

WHEREAS, every Republican President since Dwight D. Eisenhower, and the Republican Party Platform as well, have supported self-determination for the United States Citizens of Puerto Rico.

WHEREAS, the United States is responsible for the evolution of self-government in its territories, and full self-government is best accomplished through a self-determination process.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this Federation hereby expresses its unqualified support for the current legislative initiatives by Republican leaders in the United States House and Senate to provide a process leading to full self-government for Puerto Rico in order to finally resolve Puerto Rico's political status.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Young Republican National Federation calls upon all Republicans in the Congress to vigorously support the passage of these self-determination measures of the Republican Congressional leadership, consistent with the long-standing support of the Republican Party for full enfranchisement of United States Citizens.