

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 279

Expressing the sense of the Senate supporting the right of the United States citizens in Puerto Rico to express their desires regarding their future political status.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 17, 1998

Mr. TORRICELLI (for himself, Mr. D'AMATO, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. BENNETT, and Mr. HARKIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate supporting the right of the United States citizens in Puerto Rico to express their desires regarding their future political status.

Whereas nearly 4,000,000 United States citizens live in the islands of Puerto Rico;

Whereas 1998 marks the centenary of the acquisition of the islands of Puerto Rico from Spain;

Whereas in 1917 the United States granted United States citizenship to the inhabitants of Puerto Rico;

Whereas since 1952, Puerto Rico has exercised local self-government under the sovereignty of the United States and subject to the provisions of the Constitution of the

United States and other Federal laws applicable to Puerto Rico;

Whereas the Senate supports and recognizes the right of United States citizens residing in Puerto Rico to express their views regarding their future political status; and

Whereas the political status of Puerto Rico can be determined only by the Congress of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING A REF-**
 3 **ERENDUM ON THE FUTURE POLITICAL STA-**
 4 **TUS OF PUERTO RICO.**

5 It is the sense of the Senate that—

6 (1) the Senate supports and recognizes the
 7 right of United States citizens residing in Puerto
 8 Rico to express democratically their views regarding
 9 their future political status through a referendum or
 10 other public forum, and to communicate those views
 11 to the President and Congress; and

12 (2) the Federal Government should review any
 13 such communication.

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