

The writing is on the wall. Our work is not done. Section 5 must be upheld. And because of that, we stand in strong support of the Voting Rights Act here tonight.

I'd like to now bring my colleague, Mr. JEFFRIES, up so we can highlight some of the provisions of the Voting Rights Act, both from a historical perspective but most importantly how it still applies today.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Thank you, Mr. HORSFORD.

I think you hit on a very important point that should be reemphasized in the context of this debate. Every single reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act section 5 was signed into law by a Republican President. And so in 1970, the reauthorization was signed into law by President Richard Nixon. In 1975, it was President Gerald Ford. In 1982, it was Ronald Reagan. And in 2006, it was George Bush.

It was the current House majority, held in different form, but when Republicans were in charge of the Chamber, they allowed the reauthorization to move forward through the Judiciary Committee on a bipartisan basis. Now this may seem strange in the current poisonous environment of Washington that we exist in right now, but there was significant cooperation, tremendous leadership shown by the then-chairperson and the ranking member, JOHN CONYERS. It passed in the House of Representatives 390–33.

It's also interesting to note historically that prior to this year, every time section 5 and the Voting Rights Act has been used to address alleged concerns with redistricting, which traditionally takes place 2 years after the completion of the census, when it was used by the Justice Department to block or modify redistricting reforms or changes prior to the Obama administration, on every other occasion since the passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965 it was a Republican Justice Department charged with the responsibility of addressing concerns with redistricting and the problem of racial gerrymandering. It was the Nixon Justice Department in 1972. It was the Reagan Justice Department in 1982. It was the George H.W. Bush Justice Department in 1992. It was the George W. Bush Justice Department in 2002.

And so the history of section 5 and the Voting Rights Act is a glorious one, not just as it relates to the preservation of our democracy, addressing the need to make sure that every American, regardless of race or color, has the capacity to participate in a meaningful way, but it's been traditionally viewed and executed through a bipartisan lens. We're hopeful that when the Supreme Court takes up oral argument on this matter in 2 days, that they will evaluate it on the merits and give due deference to Congress, which has consistently reauthorized it pursuant to its power under article I of

the Constitution as well as the 15th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America.

There really is no case to be made that it should be declared invalid. I believe we've illustrated time after time how it's been used to protect the integrity of our democracy, and we're hopeful that at some point down the road, it will no longer be necessary. But, Mr. Speaker, that moment has not arrived in America as of today.

Mr. HORSFORD. Thank you, Representative JEFFRIES. As you just indicated, Wednesday's hearing before the Supreme Court is to hear arguments as they pertain to whether to preserve section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. That is why the Congressional Black Caucus has come to the floor this evening, to bring attention to this very important provision of current law and to ensure that, as the legislative branch, we have the ability to preserve and to strengthen the Voting Rights Act as necessary.

We want to continue to push forward. There are those who have come before who have fought, bled, and died for our right to vote. We want to continue to fight and preserve everyone's right to vote.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, in the run-up to the 2012 elections Republican-controlled legislatures passed a wide range of bills designed to restrict, rather than broaden, access to the ballot box. Despite multiple comprehensive reports and findings demonstrating that impersonating another voter is more rare than being struck by lightning, thirty one states now require ID, fifteen require photo ID, for voting, potentially disenfranchising five million voters mostly minorities, especially African Americans, and senior citizens. Other recent oppressive state laws aim at making it more difficult to register to vote and scale back early voting periods. Several states undertook massive (and subsequently proven fraudulent) purges of the voting rolls. Some of the most egregious attempts at suppressing the vote occurred in states which required pre-clearance under the 1965 Voting Rights Act because of their long history of voter suppression. Without Section 5 in place, many of the roughly 2,400 blocked voting changes proposed since 1982 would have had a significant adverse impact on voters.

Following the Civil War Congress recognized the critical central role of voting in our democracy and passed the fifteenth amendment which gives the Federal Government primary authority to prevent discrimination in voting. The amendment was ratified by the states and the Voting Rights Act (VRA) is a direct implementation of that authority to prevent any attempt to limit access to the ballot. The Supreme Court has itself noted that Congress, not the Court, has the special responsibility to protect voting rights. The fact is that, in an overwhelming bipartisan vote in 2006, Congress found that voting discrimination continues to persist, and it undermines our democracy and therefore reauthorized the VRA for twenty-five years.

This year marks the 48th Anniversary of the 1965 Selma-to-Montgomery March which led to the passage of the Voting Rights Act and I join in calling for a new generation of Freedom Riders to join with tens of thousands of original Freedom Riders in standing tall for our hard won voting rights.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as the Supreme Court prepares to hear arguments in *Shelby County v. Holder* this week, it is critical that we recognize the importance of upholding the Voting Rights Act (VRA) in order to preserve the rights of all Americans. To strip the VRA of its most effective provision now would be to turn our backs on millions of Americans who continue to be targeted by discriminatory voting practices.

The 2012 Presidential Election exemplified the persistent threats that work to disenfranchise voters. Long lines at polling places, the purging of voter registration rolls, and blatant efforts to intimidate select groups of voters have mired the electoral process in many localities. In Texas, two harsh voter mandates were passed in 2012 which were designed to create hurdles to voting with restrictive voter ID laws, and to dilute the voting power of the burgeoning minority population. In a testament to the necessity of the VRA, both measures were blocked under Section 5, preventing inequality of voting rights in Texas.

Historically, Congress has always reauthorized Section 5 of the VRA on a bipartisan basis, and as recently as 2006. The U.S. Department of Justice has filed more than 1,000 objections under Section 5 since 1982, protecting millions of voters from discrimination. The Supreme Court has upheld Section 5 of the VRA four times.

Mr. Speaker, voter disenfranchisement still poses a great threat to the electoral process. The Voting Rights Act is an essential tool in our fight to preserve equal voting rights for all Americans. Through the VRA, Congress has exercised its constitutional authority under the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to ensure voters have free and fair access to the polls. Until there is sufficient evidence to suggest that efforts to suppress minority voters have been mitigated, the Voting Rights Act must be upheld in its entirety.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. CULBERSON (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of illness.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 18 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, February 26, 2013, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the third and fourth quarters of 2012 pursuant to Public Law 95-384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2012

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☐

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. FRANK D. LUCAS, Chairman, Jan. 25, 2013.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2012

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Adrienne Ramsay	10/7	10/9	Russia		802.00						802.00
Commercial Airfare	10/9	10/11	Switzerland		900.00						900.00
Donna Shahbaz	10/8	10/11	Italy		806.00		10,439.70				10,439.70
10/12	10/13	Luxembourg									806.00
10/13	10/14	France									
10/14	10/17	Germany			360.58						360.58
Local Transportation Costs							1,722.00				1,722.00
Misc. Staff Delegation Costs								1,859.44			1,859.44
Commercial Airfare							2,561.20				2,561.20
Sarah Young	10/8	10/11	Italy		806.00						806.00
10/12	10/13	Luxembourg									
10/13	10/14	France									
10/14	10/17	Germany			360.58						360.58
Local Transportation Costs							1,843.00				1,843.00
Misc. Staff Delegation Costs								1,859.44			1,859.44
Commercial Airfare							2,845.40				2,845.40
Robert Blair	10/14	10/20	Russia		2,278.00						2,278.00
Local Transportation Costs							3,899.00				3,899.00
Interpreter's Service								4,466.58			4,466.58
Commercial Airfare							9,460.25				9,460.25
Loraine Heckenberg	10/14	10/23	Russia		3,379.35						3,379.35
Local Transportation Costs							4,011.00				4,011.00
Interpreter's Service								4,466.58			4,466.58
Commercial Airfare							7,615.05				7,615.05
Taunja Berquam	10/14	10/20	Russia		2,278.00						2,278.00
Local Transportation Costs							3,829.00				3,829.00
Interpreter's Service								4,466.58			4,466.58
Commercial Airfare							9,465.65				9,465.65
Brooke Boyer	10/9	10/10	Italy		328.50						328.50
10/10	10/13	Kenya			914.78						914.78
10/13	10/16	Uganda			928.68						928.68
10/16	10/17	Djibouti			340.00						340.00
Misc. Transportation Costs							128.00				128.00
Commercial Airfare							9,846.50				9,846.50
Tim Prince	10/9	10/10	Italy		328.50						328.50
10/10	10/13	Kenya			914.78						914.78
10/13	10/16	Uganda			928.68						928.68
10/16	10/17	Djibouti			340.00						340.00
Misc. Transportation Costs							32.00				32.00
Commercial Airfare							9,846.50				9,846.50
BG Wright	10/9	10/10	Italy		328.50						328.50
10/10	10/13	Kenya			914.78						914.78
10/13	10/16	Uganda			928.68						928.68
10/16	10/17	Djibouti			340.00						340.00
Misc. Transportation Costs							138.00				138.00
Commercial Airfare							9,846.50				9,846.50
Megan Rosenbusch	10/9	10/10	Italy		328.50						328.50
10/10	10/13	Kenya			914.78						914.78
10/13	10/16	Uganda			928.68						928.68
10/16	10/17	Djibouti			340.00						340.00
Misc. Transportation Costs							155.00				155.00
Commercial Airfare							9,846.50				9,846.50
Dena Baron	10/14	10/17	France		310.00						310.00
10/17	10/19	Germany			293.00						293.00
Misc. Staff Delegation Costs							1,214.60				1,214.60
Misc. Transportation Costs							168.74				168.74
Commercial Airfare							3,153.50				3,153.50
Michael Friedberg	10/14	10/17	France		310.00						310.00
10/17	10/19	Germany			293.00						293.00
Misc. Staff Delegation Costs								1,214.60			1,214.60
Misc. Transportation Costs							168.74				168.74
Commercial Airfare							3,018.50				3,018.50
Doug Disrud	10/16	10/17	France		165.00						165.00
10/17	10/19	Germany			293.00						293.00
Misc. Staff Delegation Costs								550.60			550.60
Misc. Transportation Costs							168.74				168.74
Commercial Airfare							3,102.74				3,102.74
Kate Hallahan	10/14	10/17	France		310.00						310.00
10/17	10/19	Germany			293.00						293.00
Misc. Staff Delegation Costs								1,214.60			1,214.60
Misc. Transportation Costs							168.74				168.74
Commercial Airfare							3,118.50				3,118.50
Joseph William Carlile	10/14	10/17	France		310.00						310.00
10/17	10/19	Germany			293.00						293.00
Misc. Staff Delegation Costs								1,214.60			1,214.60
Misc. Transportation Costs							168.74				168.74
Commercial Airfare							3,118.50				3,118.50
Hon. Rodney Frelinghuysen	12/7	12/9	Bahrain		248.00						248.00
12/9	12/11	Saudi Arabia			126.00						126.00
12/10	12/11	Belgium			154.00						154.00