

Crisis demands innovation. We need to respond to violence with methods that are effective and efficient, not just usual and conventional. We need methods that move us towards peace, not those that engulf us in further violence. The United States must incorporate UCP as a key instrument in transforming violent conflict, and in protecting civilians, through our initiatives at the State Department and USAID as well as our positions at the United Nations.

CALLING FOR DEBATE AND VOTE
ON LEGISLATION TO REPAIR
DAMAGE TO VOTING RIGHTS ACT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I call upon House Speaker BOEHNER to bring legislation intended to protect the right to vote of all Americans to the floor for debate and vote in advance of the 50th anniversary of the landmark Voting Rights Act signed by President Lyndon Johnson on August 6, 1965.

This action is long overdue.

It has been more than two years since the Supreme Court decided *Shelby County v. Holder*, 570 U.S. 193 (2013), which invalidated Section 4(b) of the Voting Rights Act and paralyzed the application of the Act's Section 5 preclearance requirements, which protect minority voting rights where voter discrimination has historically been the worst.

In the 49 years since its passage in 1965, the Voting Rights Act has safeguarded the right of Americans to vote and stood as an obstacle to many of the more egregious attempts by certain states and local jurisdictions to game the system by passing discriminatory changes to their election laws and administrative policies.

In signing the Voting Rights Act on August 6, 1965, President Lyndon Johnson said:

The vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice and destroying the terrible walls which imprison men because they are different from other men.

Although much progress has been made there is still much work to be done in order to prevent systemic voter suppression and discrimination within our communities and we must remain ever vigilant and oppose schemes that will abridge or dilute the precious right to vote.

Since 1982, Section 5 has stopped more than 1,000 discriminatory voting changes in their tracks, including 107 discriminatory changes in Texas.

In the aftermath of the *Shelby* decision, I was a member of the working group led by Congressman JIM CLYBURN of South Carolina that was tasked with sharing ideas, making recommendations, and crafting and drafting the legislation that would repair the damage done to the Voting Rights Act by the Supreme Court decision and capable of winning majorities in the House and Senate and the signature of the President.

That effort resulted in the Voting Rights Amendments Act, (H.R. 3899 and H.R. 885) of which I am an original co-sponsor, which repairs the damage done to the Voting Rights Act by the Supreme Court decision.

This legislation replaces the old 'static' coverage formula with a new dynamic coverage formula, or 'rolling trigger,' which effectively gives the legislation nationwide reach because any state and any jurisdiction in any state potentially is subject to being covered if the requisite number of violations are found to have been committed.

I am also a sponsor of H.R. 2867, the Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2015, a bill that restores and advances the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by providing a modern day coverage test that will extend federal oversight to jurisdictions which have a history of voter suppression and protects vulnerable communities from discriminatory voting practices.

I am also a sponsor of H.R. 12, the Voter Empowerment Act of 2015, which protects voters from suppression, deception, and other forms of disenfranchisement by modernizing voter registration, promoting access to voting for individuals with disabilities, and protecting the ability of individuals to exercise the right to vote in elections for federal office.

For millions of Americans, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is sacred treasure, earned by the sweat and toil and tears and blood of ordinary Americans who showed the world it was possible to accomplish extraordinary things.

The Voting Rights Act is needed as much today to prevent another epidemic of voting disenfranchisement as Dr. Salk's vaccine is still needed to prevent another polio epidemic.

I again call upon Speaker BOEHNER to bring H.R. 2867, the Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2015, and H.R. 12, Voter Empowerment Act of 2015, to the floor for a vote before August 6, the 50th anniversary of the landmark Voting Rights Act signed by President Lyndon Johnson and three weeks before President Johnson's 107th birthday.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, July 23, 2015 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 28

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine lifting the crude oil export ban.

SD-538

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the State Department's proposal to construct a new diplomatic security training facility.

SD-342

2 p.m.

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine dynamic scoring, focusing on how it will affect fiscal policymaking.

SH-216

2:30 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

JULY 29

9 a.m.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine reauthorizing the Higher Education Act, focusing on combating campus sexual assault.

SH-216

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection

To hold hearings to examine the role of bankruptcy reform in addressing too-big-to-fail.

SD-538

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the North Korea threat and United States policy.

SD-419

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider an original bill entitled, "Department of Homeland Security Border Security Metrics Act of 2015", an original bill entitled, "Critical Infrastructure Protection Act of 2015", an original bill entitled, "EINSTEIN Act of 2015", S. 1073, to amend the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Improvement Act of 2012, including making changes to the Do Not Pay initiative, for improved detection, prevention, and recovery of improper payments to deceased individuals, an original bill entitled, "Quarterly Financial Reporting Reauthorization Act of 2015", S. 1607, to affirm the authority of the President to require independent regulatory agencies to comply with regulatory analysis requirements applicable to executive agencies, S. 1526, to amend title 10 and title 41, United States Code, to improve the manner in which Federal contracts for construction and design services are awarded, to prohibit the use of reverse auctions for design and construction services procurements, to amend title 31 and 41, United States Code, to improve the payment protections available to construction contractors, subcontractors, and suppliers for work performed, S. 1820, to require agencies to publish an advance notice of proposed rule making for major rules, S. 1817, to improve the effectiveness of major rules in accomplishing their regulatory objectives by promoting retrospective review, S. 1808, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct a Northern Border threat analysis, S. 779, to provide for Federal agencies to develop public access policies relating to research conducted by employees of that agency or from funds

administered by that agency, S. Res. 104, to express the sense of the Senate regarding the success of Operation Streamline and the importance of prosecuting first time illegal border crossers, S. 708, to establish an independent advisory committee to review certain regulations, S. 1170, to amend title 39, United States Code, to extend the authority of the United States Postal Service to issue a semipostal to raise funds for breast cancer research, H.R. 1531, to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide a pathway for temporary seasonal employees in Federal land management agencies to compete for vacant permanent positions under internal merit promotion procedures, an original bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 99 West 2nd Street in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, as the "Lieutenant Colonel James 'Maggie' Megellas Post Office", S. 1596, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2082 Stringtown Road in Grove City, Ohio, as the "Specialist Jo-

seph W. Riley Post Office Building", and the nomination of Denise Turner Roth, of North Carolina, to be Administrator of General Services.

SD-342

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine wireless broadband and the future of spectrum policy.

SR-253

2 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Oversight, Agency Action, Federal Rights and Federal Courts

To hold hearings to examine IRS targeting, focusing on progress of agency reforms and congressional options.

SD-226

2:15 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the true costs of alcohol and drug abuse in Native communities.

SD-628

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine ending veteran homelessness.

SR-418

JULY 30

2:30 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

AUGUST 4

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the back-end of the nuclear fuel cycle and related legislation, including S. 854, to establish a new organization to manage nuclear waste, provide a consensual process for siting nuclear waste facilities, ensure adequate funding for managing nuclear waste.

SD-366