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LRB099 18318 MST 42692 r

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, In 2013, the Supreme Court of the United States,
3 in *Shelby County v. Holder*, held that states can no longer be
4 judged by voter discrimination that went on decades ago; and

5 WHEREAS, The formula used in Section 4(a) of the Voting
6 Rights Act was found to be unconstitutional, outdated, and no
7 longer relevant in modern times; if a state had qualified under
8 the formula in Section 4(a), Section 5 would be activated,
9 which required review either by the United States District
10 Court for Washington, D.C. or the Attorney General; and

11 WHEREAS, The U.S. Supreme Court directed Congress to
12 identify jurisdictions that should be singled out now for voter
13 discrimination, as opposed to discrimination 40 years ago, as
14 long as the formula does not include black voter registration
15 and turnout from decades ago; and

16 WHEREAS, If Congress does not re-authorize the formula in
17 Section 4(a), the Voting Rights Act loses much of its original
18 purpose to prevent discrimination in voting; without a formula
19 in Section 4, Section 5 preclearance goes unused in states with
20 a history of discrimination; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE

1 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
2 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we urge Congress to re-authorize
3 Section 4 of the Federal Voting Rights Act so that citizens who
4 were previously protected do not become disenfranchised; and be
5 it further

6 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
7 delivered to the Speaker of the United States House of
8 Representatives Paul Ryan, United States Senate Majority
9 Leader Mitch McConnell, and President Barack Obama.