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SUMMARY

Urges Congress to pass legislation requiring states to eliminate barriers to voting.

JOINT MEMORIAL

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2 To the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of
3 America, in Congress assembled:

4 We, your memorialists, the Seventy-seventh Legislative Assembly of the
5 State of Oregon, in legislative session assembled, respectfully represent as
6 follows:

7 Whereas obstacles posed by voting laws that are unduly burdensome, in-
8 consistent or unclear have kept millions of Americans from casting ballots
9 in recent elections; and

10 Whereas in 2011 many state legislatures considered and passed laws under
11 the guise of preventing voter fraud and preserving election integrity despite
12 a lack of evidence that voter fraud has a meaningful impact on the outcome
13 of elections in the United States; and

14 Whereas studies have shown that although up to 11 percent of United
15 States citizens lack government-issued photo identification, more than 30
16 states have considered laws that would require voters to present such iden-
17 tification in order to vote; and

18 Whereas many states have passed laws requiring proof of citizenship in
19 order to register to vote, laws shortening early voting time frames, laws
20 forbidding election day registration and laws making it more difficult for
21 third-party organizations to register voters, all of which contribute to lower

1 voter registration and turnout rates; and

2 Whereas federal law guarantees all United States citizens the right to
3 vote; and

4 Whereas the State of Oregon is committed to ensuring that citizens do
5 not remain or become disenfranchised and has taken steps to make voting
6 and registering to vote both simple and accessible; and

7 Whereas expanding rather than diminishing voter access should be a
8 common goal toward which all states aspire; now, therefore,

9 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

10 (1) The Congress of the United States is respectfully urged to pass legis-
11 lation requiring all states to eliminate barriers to voter participation in the
12 electoral process.

13 (2) A copy of this memorial shall be sent to each member of the Oregon
14 Congressional Delegation.

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