

Restoration of the Voting Rights Act of 1965

WHEREAS, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 has been dismantled by the June 2013 Supreme Court Decision striking Section 4 of the Act, rendering no enforcement of Section 5;

FURTHER, Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act requires that states and localities with a history of racial discrimination get permission from the federal government to enact any changes to their voting laws in a process called “pre clearance;” Section 5 first applied to states that imposed literacy tests or other unfair devices and had low voter registration or turnout; Congress later expanded the law to add jurisdictions with sizable minority populations and English-only election materials;

WHEREAS, members of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Incorporated regard voting as a non-partisan issue and a basic civil right; American history documents that the right to vote had not been afforded equitably to Blacks and minorities prior to the instruments provided in the Voting Rights Act of 1965;

WHEREAS, discriminatory practices of voter suppression have now continued with vigor with nationally documented cases and reports of problems to include but not be limited to: new Voter ID laws restricting access, polling place location changes without adequate voter notice, and biased political redistricting that have disallowed and frustrated voters;

WHEREAS, the absence of the Voting Rights Act revisits an ugly and shameful time in America where Blacks were marginalized and not treated as equal citizens. Coalition members refuse to go back to that time;

WHEREAS, voting rights, education, engagement, and increase in voter participation have been a core part of the Coalition’s advocacy agenda since our inception. Voting rights continue to be a definitive advocacy priority in every election in towns, cities, counties, states and nationally.

WHEREAS, Coalition members in chapters across the country will mobilize locally and nationally to support and ensure Black and minority voting rights are protected.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that members of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. in the centrally impacted states of Alabama, Florida, Indiana, Mississippi, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia historically referenced in Section 5 as well as support from the remaining chapters across the country shall call on the members of Congress in their home states to vote to restore the 1965 Voting Rights Act immediately; *and*

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Coalition’s National Board of Directors shall monitor and publicly report adverse voter activities through its chapter’s membership.

Submitted by NCBW Public Policy Committee