



Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL

Legislation Text

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PROPOSED RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO, EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO THE PUERTO RICO STATUS ACT, AND ENDORSING THE PUERTO RICO SELF-DETERMINATION ACT

WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico has been under United States jurisdiction since 1898, and it is the property of, but not part, of the United States, and laws passed by Congress apply on the island without the consent nor participation of the residents thereof; and

WHEREAS, The principle of self-determination is a cornerstone of international law, enshrined in the United Nations Charter, which guarantees all peoples the right to determine their political status freely and freely pursue their economic, social, and cultural development; and

WHEREAS, The Puerto Rican people have, through various referendums and public expressions, demonstrated a clear desire to address and resolve the island's political status; and

WHEREAS, The Puerto Rico Status Act has been introduced in the United States Congress, raising concerns among many Puerto Ricans and their allies regarding its approach to resolving the island's future political status; and

WHEREAS, The Puerto Rico Self-Determination Act proposes a process for Puerto Ricans to exercise their right to self-determination in a democratic and inclusive manner, offering a platform for Puerto Ricans to decide their future through a convention of elected representatives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Cook County President and the Board of Commissioners do hereby express strong support for the right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Honorable Body opposes the Puerto Rico Status Act due to concerns over its inadequacy in facilitating a fair and democratic process for the Puerto Rican people to determine their future, given the lack of critical information over status definitions, the controlling language of government operations, transitions, taxes, Puerto Rico's separate Olympic representation, citizenship, and other key matters; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Honorable Body endorses the Puerto Rico Self-Determination Act as a constructive approach to enabling the people of Puerto Rico to explore and decide upon their future political status through a democratic and participatory process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Honorable Body encourages our federal representatives to support legislation and initiatives that align with Puerto Rico's principles of self-determination and democracy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be delivered to members of the Cook County congressional delegation and the President of the United States of America, expressing the sentiment of the Board of Commissioners regarding the future status of Puerto Rico.