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2021 DPCA Annual Global Meeting (May 14-16) Resolutions Adopted

All not adopted as of May 16 were deferred to a later DPCA meeting or withdrawn

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5

6 #1

7 **To Rename the Historic Edmund Pettus Bridge**
8 **for Congressman John R. Lewis**

9 **ADOPTED**

10 *Proposed by: Ken Sherman (DA Canada, DNC Member); Steve Nardi (DA Canada, Chair);*
11 *Lissette Wright (DA Canada, International Treasurer); Sue Alksnis (DA Canada, DPCA*
12 *Voting Rep, Global Progressive Caucus Co-Chair); Christina Skovsgaard (Chair, DA*
13 *Norway); and unanimously approved by Democrats Abroad Canada Board*
14 *Co-sponsors: listed below*

15
16 **Whereas** the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama was the site of “Bloody Sunday”
17 on March 7, 1965, when more than 600 nonviolent protesters attempted to march from
18 Selma to Montgomery to affirm the right of African Americans to vote; and

19
20 **Whereas** these protestors, led by the late John R. Lewis (deceased July 17, 2020) of the
21 Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and Hosea Williams of the Southern
22 Christian Leadership Conference, were attacked by Alabama state troopers and other
23 deputies armed with billy clubs, tear gas, and cattle prods; and

24
25 **Whereas** John R. Lewis served for over 33 years in the U.S. House of Representatives,
26 where he was respected as the “conscience of Congress”; and

27
28 **Whereas**, for many years, Congressman Lewis led annual marches across the Edmund
29 Pettus Bridge to celebrate the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act and to bring
30 attention to the need for continued civil rights progress in the U.S.; and

31
32 **Whereas** the Bridge has become a symbol of the power of nonviolent direct action, or, in
33 the words of Congressman Lewis, “good trouble”, for social change; and

34
35 **Whereas** the Bridge is still named for a man who, though later elected to the U.S. Senate,
36 supported slavery, was a Confederate general, and served as Grand Dragon of the
37 Alabama Ku Klux Klan;

38
39 **Therefore Be It Resolved** that Democrats Abroad calls upon the City of Selma, the State
40 of Alabama, and the U.S. National Park Service *to rename the historic Edmund Pettus*
41 *Bridge the “John R. Lewis Bridge”* to memorialize the life of Congressman John Lewis
42 and the 1960s civil rights movement; and

43
44 **Be It Resolved** that this renaming effort be a global DA initiative and that Democrats
45 Abroad advocate for this name change where it would be most helpful, including during
46 our next DC Door-knock with Members of Congress and contacting the City of Selma
47 and the U.S. National Park Service;

48
49 **Be It Further Resolved** that Democrats Abroad designate July 17, 2021 as “John Lewis
50 Global Voting Rights Day” on the anniversary of the Congressman’s death; and
51

52 **Be It Finally Resolved** that Country Committees / Chapters of Democrats Abroad on
53 Saturday, July 17 sponsor a global “votercade” of actions (from picnics, phone banking,
54 letter writing, press events; and rallies at a local bridge) to promote the passage of
55 legislation: H.R.1 For the People Act, H.R.4 John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement
56 Act, George Floyd Justice and Policing Act and the DC Admission Act.

57

58 *Co-sponsors: Austin Allaire (DPCA Voting Rep, DA UK); Onélica Andrade (Vice Chair, DA*
59 *Belgium); Kim Antonsen (Chair, DA Panama); Kenton E. Barnes (Chair, DA Germany); John*
60 *Baumlin (Chair, DA Japan); Kendra Borgen (Chair, DA Netherlands); Julia Bryan (DPCA*
61 *International Chair, DA Czech Republic); Maya Buchanan (DPCA Voting Rep, DA UK); Angela*
62 *Fobbs (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Germany); Matthew Goldman (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Belgium);*
63 *Tre' Shawn L. Griffin-Noordermeer (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Netherlands); Daniel James (Chair,*
64 *DA Spain); Adrienne Johnson (DPCA Voting Rep, DA UK); Antar Keith (DPCA Voting Rep, DA*
65 *Germany); Candice Kerestan (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Germany); Inge Kjemtrup (DPCA Voting*
66 *Rep, DA UK); Aaron Kruse (DNC Member, DA China); Anya Leonhard (DPCA Voting Rep, DA*
67 *Germany); John Lindsay (DPCA Voting Rep, DA UK); Wen-Wen Lindroth (Chair, DA UK);*
68 *Larry Pihl (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Mexico); Stephanie Randall (DPCA Voting Rep, DA UK);*
69 *John Reardon (Chair, DA Argentina); Laura Rostowfske Reilly (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Spain);*
70 *Jonathan Roth (Chair, DA Norway); Caroline Ruchonnet (DPCA Voting Rep, DA UK); Chesney*
71 *McKinley Severance (Chair, DA Denmark); Rajib Sengupta (Vice Chair, DA India); Suma*
72 *Shamanna (Chair, DA India); Ada Shen (DPCA Voting Rep, DA France); Joe Smallhoover*
73 *(International Counsel, DA France); Katie Solon (DNC Member, DA Germany); Monica*
74 *Tanouye (DPCA Voting Rep, DA UK); Kathryn Tullos (Vice Chair, DA Spain); Josh Van der*
75 *Ploeg (DPCA Voting Rep, DA UK); Christine Valverde (Chair, DA New Zealand); Elizabeth*
76 *Voss (Vice Chair DA Switzerland); Erin Watson (Chair 2019-2021, DA South Korea); Quaide*
77 *Williams (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Germany); Tasia Campbell (DPCA Voting Rep, DA UK).*

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80 #2

81 **Applauding Congressman Jamie Raskin**
82 **and House Impeachment Managers**

83 **ADOPTED**

84 *Proposed by: Ada Shen (DA France, DPCA Voting Rep); Joe Smallhoover (DA France,*
85 *International Council, DNC Member); and Connie Borde (DA France, DPCA Voting*
86 *Rep)*

87 *Based on Resolution #1 of the DA France Executive Committee, January 14, 2021*

88 *Co-sponsors: listed below*

89

90 **Whereas**, prior to being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, Jamie Raskin
91 (Democrat, Maryland’s 8th district) was a leading scholar and professor of constitutional
92 law at American University’s Washington College of Law; and

93

94 **Whereas**, while on a sabbatical year in 2003-2004, then-Professor Raskin lived with his
95 family in Paris, was an active member of Democrats Abroad France, and was elected a
96 member of the Democrats Abroad delegation to the 2004 Democratic National
97 Convention in Boston; and

98

99 **Whereas**, since joining Congress in January 2017, by virtue of his grasp of constitutional
100 law, his fine political acumen, his devotion to the rule of law, and his profoundly
101 progressive politics, Representative Raskin has in two terms risen to become a leading
102 Democratic light in Congress, as well as a leading supporter of Democrats Abroad and
103 friend to the community of Americans abroad; and

104

105 **Whereas** Representative Raskin, his wife Sarah, and their family tragically lost their son
106 Tommy on December 31, 2020; and

107

108 **Whereas**, on January 6, 2021, one day after their son’s funeral, Representative Raskin
109 nevertheless rose in Congress resolutely opposing outrageous attempts by Republican
110 members of Congress to overturn the legitimate result of the U.S. presidential election,
111 poignantly arguing that his fellow Members of Congress each took an “oath to recognize
112 the will of the people”, noting further “the 2020 election is over. The people have spoken.
113 Biden is President;” and

114

115 **Whereas** minutes later a mob of insurrectionists, incited by then-President Donald
116 Trump, stormed the Capitol and threatened the lives and safety of Members of Congress,
117 the Vice President, the Speaker of the House, the Vice President-elect, their staffs,
118 security forces, and others in the Capitol that day in a violent riot that resulted in the loss
119 of five lives, including three police officers, and injuring over one hundred; and

120

121 **Whereas** Representative Raskin authored a resolution calling on Vice President Mike
122 Pence to invoke the 25th Amendment and remove then-President Trump, and helped
123 draft articles of impeachment charging then-President Trump with incitement of
124 insurrection; and

125

126 **Whereas** on January 12, 2021, Representative Raskin led the House of Representatives
127 to successfully charge Donald Trump with incitement of insurrection, the most serious
128 charge ever leveled at a sitting President by Congress, passed with a bipartisan vote of
129 232-197, making Trump the only President in U.S. history to be impeached twice; and
130

131 **Whereas** from February 9 to February 13, 2021, Representative Raskin acted admirably
132 as Lead Manager for the U.S. House of Representatives in the Senate impeachment trial
133 of then-President Trump;
134

135 **Therefore Be It Resolved** that the members and leaders of Democrat Abroad around the
136 world express their profoundest condolences to Representative Raskin, his wife Sarah,
137 and their family, on the tragic loss of their beloved son Tommy, may his memory be a
138 blessing; and
139

140 **Be It Further Resolved** that Democrats Abroad lauds Representative Jamie Raskin, as
141 Lead House Impeachment Manager, for his patriotic and principled defense of the rule of
142 law, of the United States Constitution, and of fair, open, and transparent democracy; and
143 for his resolute leadership in opposition to forces of tyranny, despotism, and
144 obscurantism that threaten the functioning of the United States government; and
145

146 **Be It Further Resolved** that Democrats Abroad applauds and extends our profound
147 gratitude to the other House Impeachment Managers:

- 148 • Joaquin Castro of Texas' 20th District
- 149 • David Cicilline of Rhode Island's 1st District
- 150 • Madeleine Dean of Pennsylvania's 4th District
- 151 • Diana DeGette of Colorado's 1st District
- 152 • Ted Lieu of California's 33rd District
- 153 • Joe Neguse of Colorado's 2nd District
- 154 • Stacey Plaskett of Virgin Islands' At-Large District
- 155 • Eric Swalwell of California's 15th District

156 and the Members of the House and Senate who rose to speak and vote on behalf of our
157 country and people, to defend truth, democracy, and the institutions of our Republic.
158

159 *Co-sponsors: Theresa Morelli-Fornari (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Italy); Katie Solon (DNC*
160 *Member, DA Germany); Suma Shamanna (Chair, DA India); Rajib Sengupta (Vice Chair, DA*
161 *India); Juanita (Anny) Schrader (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Mexico); Max Dunitz (DPCA Voting*
162 *Rep, DA France); Emily Lines (Vice Chair, DA Germany); Kenton Barnes (Chair, DA Germany);*
163 *Angela Fobbs (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Germany); Shari Temple (DPCA Voting Rep, DA*
164 *Germany); Vincienzo Cabrera (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Germany); Danielle Follett (First Vice*
165 *Chair, DA France); Joshua Van der Ploeg (DPCA Voting Rep, DA UK); Martha McDevitt-Pugh*
166 *(DNC Member, DA Netherlands); Candice Kerestan (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Germany); Heather*
167 *Stone (Executive Vice Chair, DA Israel); Chris Reilly (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Spain); Laura*
168 *Rostowske Reilly (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Spain); Laura Messenger (DPCA Voting Rep 2019-*
169 *2021, DA UK); Robert Scott (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Germany); Brooke Scott (DPCA Voting*
170 *Rep, DA Canada); Angie Vachio (Vice Chair, DA Costa Rica); Carol Grose (DPCA Voting Rep,*
171 *DA UK); Monica Tanouye (DPCA Voting Rep, DA UK); Salli Swartz (DPCA Voting Rep 2019-*
172 *2021, DA France); Kendra Borgen (Chair, DA Netherlands); Susan Alksnis (DPCA Voting Rep,*
173 *DA Canada); Kathryn Edson (DPCA Voting Rep 2019-2021, DA Switzerland); Austin Allaire*
174 *(DPCA Voting Rep, DA UK); David Shallenberger (Chair, DA Ecuador); Denise Roig (DPCA*

175 *Voting Rep, DA Canada); Adrienne Johnson (DPCA Voting Rep, DA UK); Ellie Wallis (Vice*
176 *Chair, DA Ecuador); Merrill Oates (Chair, DA Hungary); Reno Domenico (Chair, DA Ukraine);*
177 *Gena Brumitt (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Canada); Carmelan Polce (DPCA Voting Rep, DA*
178 *Australia); Kim Antonsen (Chair, DA Panama); David Mivasair (DPCA Voting Rep, DA*
179 *Canada); Elizabeth Jenkins (DPCA Voting Rep, DA China); Christine Valverde (Chair, DA New*
180 *Zealand); Vanessa Moore (Chair, DA Lion City-Singapore); Ángela-Jo Touza-Medina (DPCA*
181 *Voting Rep, DA Spain); Tasia Campbell (DPCA Voting Rep, DA UK); Angela Fobbs (DPCA*
182 *Voting Rep, DA Germany); Michael March (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Thailand); Matthew*
183 *Goldman (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Belgium); Jerry Zellhoefer (DPCA Voting Rep, DA France);*
184 *Juan Cerda (DPCA Voting Rep, DA France); Quaide Williams (DPCA Voting Rep, DA*
185 *Germany); Natalie Bachiri (Chair, DA Luxembourg); Lissette Wright (International Treasurer,*
186 *DA Canada); Steve Nardi (Chair, DA Canada); Aaron Kruse (DNC Member, DA China); Inge*
187 *Kjemtrup (DCPA Voting Rep, DA UK); Maya Buchanan (DPCA Voting Rep, DA UK).*
188

189 #5

190 **In Support of Urgent Federal Tax Filing Relief for Americans Abroad**
191 **in the American Jobs Plan (infrastructure legislation) and American**
192 **Families Plan**

193 **ADOPTED as amended**

194 *Proposed by: Carmelan Polce (DA Australia DPCA Voting Rep; DA Taxation Task Force Chair)*

195 *Co-sponsors: listed below*

196

197 **Whereas** Democrats Abroad celebrates the policy successes that the Biden White House
198 and Democrat-controlled Congress have had, as well as forthcoming legislative
199 opportunities to improve the lives of all Americans, we also recognize the pressure that
200 federal government spending programs are going to place on current and future taxpayers;
201 and

202

203 **Whereas** DA supports the Biden Administration’s aim of raising additional federal
204 government revenue from those wealthy Americans and U.S. corporations not paying
205 their fair share, including its pledge not to raise taxes on those making under \$400,000
206 per annum; and

207

208 **Whereas** DA recognizes the actions of Congress in likewise pursuing policies that treat
209 low-income Americans differently from high-income Americans, as evidenced by
210 income-based eligibility criteria for pandemic aid and negotiations to create an exemption
211 for low-income Americans from the state-and-local tax (SALT) cap; and

212

213 **Whereas** DA reaffirms its belief that misperceptions about Americans abroad have
214 resulted in tax policies that cause personal and financial harm to them via double taxation
215 of many forms of income; by creating material barriers to banking, saving, and investing;
216 and, due to inordinate complexity, by forcing ordinary middle-class Americans abroad to
217 engage expensive tax preparers able to contend with the convergence of two (and
218 sometimes more) tax jurisdictions; and

219

220 **Whereas** DA supports a change from the current system of Citizenship Based Taxation
221 to Residency Based Taxation because it would sweep away most of the tax code
222 injustices that place an unfair burden on Americans abroad;

223

224 **Whereas** DA continues to collaborate with or work in parallel to other Americans abroad
225 organizations advocating for Residency Based Taxation;

226

227 **Whereas** DA research and analysis indicate that most Americans abroad live in countries
228 with an overall tax burden higher than the U.S., and they go to a great deal of trouble and
229 expense to file tax returns with end result that they owe no U.S. tax; and

230

231 **Whereas** the Biden Administration and Democrats in Congress have promised sweeping
232 reforms to international taxation as a part of the American Jobs Plan, which enables DA
233 to present urgent reforms to address the GOP’s Global Intangible Low-Taxed Income

234 (GILTI) tax which has devastated many Americans abroad who own small-to-medium-
235 size businesses registered abroad; and

236

237 **Whereas** the focus of Congress on raising tax revenue from those with the greatest
238 ability to pay, especially those who are currently not paying their fair share, provides DA
239 with an opportunity to present tax reforms for Americans abroad which benefit working-
240 class Americans and have no negative revenue impact; and

241

242 **Whereas** the Biden Administration and Democrats in Congress have promised new
243 social programs with targeted support for families as part of the American Families Plan,
244 which is expected to pass during the 117th Congress, enabling DA to present reforms that
245 would provide filing relief for American families abroad;

246

247 **Therefore Be It Resolved** that in 2021 DA shall continue to advocate for a change from
248 Citizenship Based to Residency Based Taxation on an optional basis as the most
249 comprehensive reform for resolving grave tax-policy injustices;¹ and

250

251 **Be It Further Resolved** that DA supports the work of the Taxation Task Force to
252 advance tax-filing relief for Americans Abroad as part of the American Jobs Plan
253 currently being considered in Congress and the American Families Plan which is
254 expected to follow it; and

255

256 **Be It Further Resolved** that DA shall present to Congress a proposal to exempt from
257 GILTI taxes Section 911 bona fide Americans abroad whose income is less than
258 \$400,000 per annum; and

259

260 **Be It Further Resolved** that DA shall present to Congress a proposal to exempt from
261 U.S. tax filing Section 911 bona fide Americans abroad who are compliant with their
262 financial-account-reporting obligations and who owe no U.S. tax; and

263

264 **Be It Further Resolved** that DA shall present to Congress proposals to reform FBAR to
265 index the reporting threshold for inflation; to create a filing threshold for Section 911
266 bona fide Americans abroad that is five (5) times higher than the indexed threshold; to
267 eliminate FBAR and FATCA filing-duplication; to redress the enormously out-of-
268 proportion penalties for non-willful neglect to file FBAR reports; and to reinstate the
269 option to paper-file the FBAR.

270

271 *Co-sponsors: Ada Shen (DA France, DPCA Voting Rep); Joe Smallhoover (DA France,*
272 *International Counsel, DNC Member); Nathalie Bachiri (DA Luxembourg, Chair); Aaron Kruse*
273 *(DA Singapore, DNC Member); Bill Borden (DA Sweden, DPCA Voting Rep); Allesandro*
274 *Marra (DA Italy, DPCA Voting Rep); Rebecca Lammers (DA UK DPCA Voting Rep); Tre-*
275 *Shawn Griffin (DA Netherlands, DPCA Voting Rep).*

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¹ The phrase “on an optional basis” was added by amendment.

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#6
Honoring Patrick Werner, founder of Democrats Abroad Nicaragua

ADOPTED

Proposed by: John Chudy (DA Guatemala, Vice Chair)
Co-sponsors: Co-sponsors: Lissette Wright, (DA Canada, International Treasurer); Kathy Rothschild, (DA Costa Rica, RVC Americas); Ken Sherman, (DA Canada, DNC Member); Steve Nardi, (DA Canada, Chair 2019-2021)

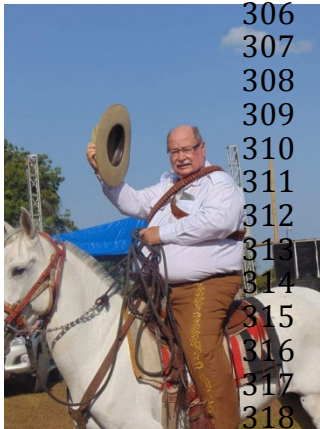
Whereas Patrick Werner, the courageous founder of Democrats Abroad Nicaragua, who with great commitment and the guidance of the Americas Regional Vice Chair, Kathy Rothschild, brought the Country Committee into being in 2017; and

Whereas Patrick Werner labored to keep Democrats Abroad vital and functioning for resident American Democrats; and

Whereas Patrick Werner’s several decades in Nicaragua revealed an eclectic range of interests, from identifying and cataloging 600 species of orchids native to Nicaragua to raising horses and collecting a miscellany of historical horse gear; from writing about Central American history to panning for gold in long-abandoned mines; from running a university to founding a Country Committee of Democrats Abroad; and

Whereas the sudden death of Patrick Werner on November 30, 2019, surprised and shocked his family and friends, and fellow Democrats in the Americas Region;

Therefore Be It Resolved that Democrats Abroad expresses its sadness at Patrick Werner’s passing away and extends sincerest condolences to his widow, Doña María Zeledón de Werner, whom he fondly called “Chilo,” to their two children Shirley and Stuart, and to all members of Democrats Abroad Nicaragua.



319

320 #10

In Support of the PRO Act

ADOPTED

323 *Proposed by: Jerry Zellhoefer (DA France, DPCA Voting Rep)*

324 *Co-author: Penny Schantz (DA France)*

325 *Co-sponsors: listed below*

326

327 **Whereas**, as union membership has drastically declined, inequality has skyrocketed;

328

329 **Whereas** the most significant worker empowerment legislation since the Great
330 Depression – the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act – will:

- 331 • Empower workers to exercise freedom to organize and bargain;
- 332 • Ensure that workers can reach a first contract quickly after a union is recognized;
- 333 • End employers’ practice of punishing striking workers by hiring permanent
334 replacements;
- 335 • Hold corporations accountable by strengthening the National Labor Relations Board
336 and allowing it to penalize employers who retaliate against working people for
337 supporting a union or collective bargaining;
- 338 • Repeal so-called “right to work” laws – divisive and racist laws created during the
339 Jim Crow era – that lead to lower wages, fewer benefits, and more dangerous
340 workplaces; and
- 341 • Create pathways for workers to form unions, without fear, in newer industries such as
342 Big Tech; and

343

344 **Whereas** the proposed PRO Act is more than labor-law reform, it is also civil rights
345 legislation, because:

- 346 • A union contract is the single best tool for closing racial and gender wage-gaps and
347 for ensuring dignity and due process for workers; and
- 348 • Expanding collective bargaining will increase protections for women, people of color,
349 immigrants, and the LGBTQ community in areas where laws fall short;

350

351 **Whereas** the U.S. House of Representatives passed the PRO Act in 2020, but an anti-
352 worker majority blocked it in the Senate; and

353

354 **Whereas** President Biden has pledged to sign the PRO Act into law;

355

356 **Therefore Be It Resolved** that Democrats Abroad shall prioritize passage of the PRO
357 Act and shall:

- 358 • inform members of action they can take to support passage of the PRO Act, including
359 sending letters to the editor of newspapers in their home states; and
- 360 • urge country committees to organize phone- and text-banking to contact Senators to
361 support the PRO Act.

362

363 *Co-sponsors: Ada Shen (DA France, DPCA Voting Rep); Jonathan Holler (DA France, Chair);*

364 *Dani Follette (DA France, First Vice Chair); Camille Canter (DA France, DPCA Voting Rep);*

365 *Jim Christiansen (DA France, DPCA Voting Rep); Max Dunitz (DA France, DPCA Voting Rep);*

366 *Joe Smallhoover (DA France, DNC Member); Drew Lombardi (DA France, DPCA Voting Rep);*

367 Susan Alksnis (DA Canada, DPCA Voting Rep); Kent Getsinger (DA Australia, DPCA Voting
368 Rep); Reno Domenico (DA Ukraine, Acting Chair); Natalie Bachiri (DA Luxembourg, Chair);
369 David Mivasair (DA Canada, DPCA Voting Rep); David Brauer (DA Japan, DPCA Voting Rep);
370 Antar Keith (DA Germany, DPCA Voting Rep); John Lindsay (DA UK, DPCA Voting Rep);
371 Michael Macy (DA UK, DPCA Voting Rep); Angela-Jo Touza-Medina (DA Spain, DPCA Voting
372 Rep); Kim Antonsen (DA Panama, Chair); Anya Leonhard (DA Germany, DPCA Voting Rep);
373 Candice Kerestan (DA Germany, DPCA Voting Rep); Vincienzo Cabrera (DA Germany, DPCA
374 Voting Rep); Josh Van der Ploeg (DA UK, DPCA Voting Rep); Aaron Kruse (DA China, DNC
375 Member); Daniel James (DA Spain, Chair); Katie Solon (DA Germany, DNC Member);
376 Connie Borde (DPCA Voting Rep France); Marjorie Bernstein (DPCA Voting Rep. France),
377 Brooke Burns (DA France); Salli Swartz (DA, France); Kendra Borgen (DPCA Voting Rep
378 Netherlands); Lissette Wright (International Treasurer, DA Canada); Antar Keith (DPCA Voting
379 Rep, Germany).
380

381 #11

382 **In Support of H.R. 40 and the Commission to Study U.S. Reparations**

383 **ADOPTED**

384 *Proposed by: Antar Keith (DA Germany, DPCA Voting Rep)*

385 *Co-sponsors: listed below*

386

387 **Whereas** the act of reparations is not a transfer of wealth from one person to another, nor
388 is it an assignment of blame to any one individual; and

389

390 **Whereas** reparations are a national obligation to acknowledge past wrongs and how they
391 still impact Americans, as well as an attempt to redress said wrongs through atonement
392 and provision of closure for the trauma they have wrought;² and

393

394 **Whereas** the obligation to redress belongs to the state – not to any individual – and must
395 not be limited to mere *restitution*, i.e., the restoration of an aggrieved party to a condition
396 before injustice occurred; but must include *atonement*, i.e., when a culpable institution
397 meets conditions of forgiveness acceptable to the aggrieved;³ and

398

399 **Whereas** H.R. 40 – the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for
400 African-Americans Act, a bill originally introduced in 1989 and most recently advanced
401 by the House Judiciary Committee on April 15, 2021 – offers an opportunity to begin
402 researching how the U.S. government could fulfill one of its oldest obligations; and

403

404 **Whereas** H.R. 40 seeks to study not only how Black Americans have suffered under
405 racialized terror, but also how a national apology and redress for slavery, as well as for *de*
406 *jure* and *de facto* racial and economic discrimination, could reverse their effects on
407 Americans today;⁴ and

408

409 **Whereas** such effects stunt Black American foundational wealth, economic security, and
410 political engagement, and are inherently tied: to historic anti-Black paradigms beginning
411 with the 1619 arrival of African slaves to what would become the United States;⁵ to

² Pres. Biden also offers support for studying reparations: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-biden-slavery-idUSKBN2AH2K9>

³ Darity, William A. "Introduction." *From Here to Equality: Reparations for Black Americans in the 21st Century*, The University of North Carolina Press, 2020, pp. 12–13.

⁴ Following emancipation, policies were enacted to ensure Black survival in America, but each form of redress was denied or redirected to non-Blacks, thereby exacerbating existing socio-economic inequities. For example, the District of Columbia Compensated Emancipation Act (1862) provided reparations to white former slave-owners for each slave freed. Denying proper reparations to the formerly enslaved initiated a series of socio-economic calamities which continue to plague Black America to this day.

⁵ The Emancipation Proclamation ended U.S. involvement in the trade of slaves, but did not end slavery as an institution. The 13th Amendment (1865) outlawed slavery but not as a form of punishment. Black people were not made legal citizens until the ratification of the 14th Amendment and could not vote until the 15th Amendment in 1868. Despite these reforms, many states imposed their own restrictive measures to prevent Black American voting.

412 denial of property ownership;⁶ and to laws which coerced Black Americans into slave-
413 like working conditions;⁷ and
414
415 **Whereas** post-Civil War white supremacist ideology inspired both terrorism⁸ and
416 discriminatory policies,⁹ with many levels of government passing and weaponizing Jim
417 Crow laws which calcified the low-socioeconomic status of most Black Americans for
418 generations; and
419
420 **Whereas** Jim Crow laws banned Black Americans from “white-designated” areas and
421 occupations, from voting and political representation, from scholastic endeavors, from
422 medical care, and from criminal justice, and left Black Americans at a heavy
423 disadvantage;¹⁰ and
424
425 **Whereas** contemporary Black disenfranchisement is maintained by systems of predatory
426 policing; mass incarceration (exacerbated by legal provisions such as the “three-strikes
427 law” and disproportionate sentencing); and institutional racism; tracing a direct
428 continuum with past forms of discrimination; and
429
430 **Whereas** both major national political parties have, for too long, delayed a sound
431 resolution to the economic crises facing Black America, which impacts communal health,
432 education, and security;¹¹ and
433
434 **Whereas** Black Americans are aggrieved at the impunity with which unarmed Black men
435 and women have been killed by an increasingly militarized police force; and
436
437 **Whereas** there has been no acknowledgement of the direct linkages between modern
438 police brutality and the Slave Patrol origins of U.S. policing; and
439
440 **Whereas** the Summer 2020 Black Lives Matter protests in reaction to George Floyd’s
441 death showed that many Black Americans can no longer tolerate systemic racism and
442 discrimination; and

⁶ The Homestead Acts in 1862-66 encouraged Black land ownership, but systemic racism prevented Blacks from taking advantage of these laws. White Americans capitalized on them instead, gaining land ownership and foundational wealth.

⁷ The Black Codes, (1865-1866), created a post-Civil War intersection between labor and incarceration, and ultimately facilitated forms of de facto slavery (e.g., sharecropping).

⁸ High-profile attacks included the Red Summer of 1919; the 1920 Election Day massacre of Ocoee, Florida’s Black residents; and the 1921 race riots and devastation perpetrated against the Greenwood district, or “Black Wallstreet” area, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, among many others throughout the country.

⁹ Institutional obstacles to voting pre-Civil Rights Act (1868-1964) included police intimidation, poll taxes, and arbitrary literacy tests. Obstacles in the post-Civil Rights Act era (1964-present) include felon disenfranchisement, draconian voter ID laws, gerrymandering, reduction of polling sites and voting hours, as well as the reduction and denial of both early voting and voting by mail. The filibuster tactic (1837-present) continues to pose a threat to civil rights to this very day.

¹⁰ Redlining (1934 – 1968) was the systematic denial of services and goods (e.g., housing) by private and public sectors.

¹¹ Black Americans currently total 74.5 million, but median Black wealth remains at zero. This wealth gap has a deleterious effect on housing, healthcare, education, and environmental safety (such as in Flint, Michigan’s water infrastructure).

443
444 **Whereas** 12% of Black American men, having lost faith in the Democratic Party,
445 dangerously swung to Donald Trump in the 2020 election, granting Republicans the
446 highest proportion of minority voters since Nixon;¹² and
447
448 **Whereas** political scientists concur that voters do not turn out unless they feel included,
449 listened to, and excited; and
450
451 **Whereas** it then becomes vital for DA to heal a significant psychosocial wound for Black
452 Americans, the most loyal Democratic voting bloc since the 1960s; and
453
454 **Whereas** it is integral that DA directly address Black Americans' unresolved demand for
455 just repair and redress before the Republican Party offers its own illegitimate version,
456 which could appear attractive due to lack of any alternative;¹³ and
457
458 **Whereas** reparations prove to be not only a moral imperative, but also a politically
459 strategic and vital one; and
460
461 **Whereas** there exist multiple examples of reparations throughout U.S. history^{14,15,16} and
462 world history^{17,18} that take into account an acknowledgement of wrongdoing, offer
463 provision of redress recognized as legitimate by the victims of those wrongs and their
464 descendants, and provide examples of closure, where both the culpable institutions and
465 aggrieved parties come to an agreement; and
466
467 **Whereas** fulfilling the national obligation of U.S. Reparations will expand Black civic
468 engagement and increase voter enfranchisement;
469

¹² A troubling and growing trend, 12% of Black men voted for Trump in 2020:

<https://www.theatlantic.com/culture/archive/2020/11/why-black-men-and-women-vote-so-differently/617134/>

¹³ Certain conservative pundits are already weighing the merits of a GOP-backed Reparations program.

https://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2021/03/29/could_gop_support_for_reparations_save_america_145488.html#

¹⁴ The Civil Liberties Act of 1988 granted reparations to Japanese Americans forced into internment during WWII.

¹⁵ In 2019, Georgetown University, a Jesuit educational institution founded and created through chattel slave labor, began financing scholarships for Black Americans who are descendants of people held as slaves by the institution. In 2018 and 2019, faith institutions such as the Religious of the Sacred Heart, Virginia Theological Seminary, and Princeton Theological Seminary initiated slavery reparation programs.

¹⁶ In 2021, Evanston, Illinois, became the first US city to formalize a reparations program, which will finance its disbursements through a system of private donorship and tax revenue from the city's own legalized marijuana economy.

¹⁷ There are numerous examples of reparation initiatives in history, such as the German disbursements to the State of Israel (1952) for atrocities committed during WWII and German disbursements to Holocaust survivors.

¹⁸ The most recent reparations policy of the German government to Israel (1998) includes a strong focus on memory, responsibility, and the future. It is this iteration that provides a strong example for the U.S. to follow because it fully encompasses acknowledgement of wrongs committed, redress as determined by the aggrieved, and closure as agreed upon by all parties.

470 **Therefore Be It Resolved** that the Democrats Abroad Executive Committee is dedicated
471 to getting the resources sufficient to support H.R. 40 with an effective global campaign to
472 reach all members to inform them about the bill, why it is significant, and how to
473 advocate for its passage through the House and the Senate; and

474

475 **Be It Further Resolved** that, by July 1st, 2021, the DA Executive Committee shall form
476 a global team responsible for Reparations Advocacy, which shall meet regularly and file
477 a short progress report to the DPCA about their reparations advocacy annually; and

478

479 **Be It Further Resolved** that DA shall continue advocacy for all further Reparation bills
480 consistent with this resolution's aims of guaranteeing reparations to Black Americans
481 providing acknowledgement, redress through restitution and atonement, and closure.

482

483 *Special thanks to Kaitlyn Kennedy (DA Germany)*

484 **Co-sponsors:** Julia Bryan (International Chair, DA Czechia); Will Bakker (EMEA Regional Vice
485 Chair, DA Luxembourg); Adrienne George (DNC Member, DA Sweden); Joe Smallhoover
486 (International Counsel, DNC Member, DA France); Adrienne Johnson (DPCA Voting Rep, DA
487 UK); Kenneth Sherman (DNC Member, DA Canada); Katie Solon (DNC Member, DA Germany);
488 Aaron Kruse (DNC Member, DA China); Lissette Wright (International Treasurer, DA Canada);
489 Candice Kerestan (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Germany); Angela Fobbs (DPCA Voting Rep, DA
490 Germany, Global Black Caucus Chair); Cory Lemke (Vice Chair, DA South Korea, Global AAPI
491 Caucus Co-Chair); Heather Stone (Executive Vice Chair, DA Israel); Quaide Williams (DPCA
492 Voting Rep, DA Germany); Matt LeMieux (DPCA Voting Re., DA Germany); Vincienzo Cabrera
493 (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Germany); Kenton Barnes (Chair, DA Germany); Max Dunitz (DPCA
494 Voting Rep, DA France); Drew Lombardi (Second Vice Chair, DA France); Ada Shen (DPCA
495 Voting Rep, DA France); Emily Lines (Vice Chair, DA Germany); Layne Mostyn (Vice Chair, DA
496 Australia); Shari Temple (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Germany); Sue Alksnis (DPCA Voting Rep, DA
497 Canada); David Mivasair (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Canada); Susan Brennan (DPCA Voting Rep,
498 DA Canada); Steve Nardi (Chair 2019-2021, DA Canada); Kent Getsinger (DPCA Voting Rep,
499 DA Australia); Juanita (Anny) Schrader (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Mexico); Quyen Nguyen (Chair,
500 DA Colombia); Austin Allaire (DPCA Voting Re., DA UK); Jen Rakow-Stepper (DPCA Voting
501 Rep, DA Austria); Beth Landry, (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Sweden); David Shallenberger (Chair,
502 DA Ecuador); Tre'Shawn Griffin (DPCA Voting Re., DA Netherlands); Matthew Goldman
503 (DPCA Voting Re., DA Belgium); Reno Domenico (Acting Country Chair, DA Ukraine); Suma
504 Shamanna (Chair, DA India); Rajib Sengupta (Vice Chair, DA India); Justin Underwood (Chair,
505 DA Australia); Josh Van der Ploeg (DPCA Voting Rep, DA UK); Laura Rostowske Reilly
506 (DPCA Voting Re., DA Spain); Chesney McKinley Severance (Chair, DA Denmark); John
507 Lindsay (DPCA Voting Rep, DA UK); Maya Buchanan (DPCA Voting Rep, DA UK); Inge
508 Kjemtrup (DPCA Voting Rep, DA UK); Andres Espineira (Vice Chair, DA Portugal); Kristi
509 Holmes Espineira (Chair, DA Portugal); Kendra Borgen (Chair, DA Netherlands); Marilyn Ball
510 Brown (Vice Chair, DA Hungary); Robert Scott (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Germany); Natalie
511 Bachiri (Chair, DA Luxembourg); Daniel James (Chair, DA Spain); Jim Mercereau (DPCA
512 Voting Re., DA Spain); Kathryn Tullos (Vice Chair, DA Spain); Ángela-Jo Touza-Medina (DPCA
513 Voting Rep, DA Spain); Marjorie Bernstein (DPCA Voting Rep, DA France); Christina
514 Skovsgaard (Chair, DA Norway); Ridah Sabouni (Chair, DA UAE); Susan Vaillant (former
515 chair, DA-Strasbourg).

516

517 #15

518 **Covid-19 Vaccinations for U.S. Veterans, Caregivers**
519 **and their Families Abroad**

520 **ADOPTED**

521 *Proposed by: Anna Marie Mattson (DA France, DPCA Voting Rep and Co-Chair of DA France*
522 *Veterans and Military Families Caucus)*

523 *Author: Marie-Louise Ferguson (Co-chair of DA France Veterans and Military Families Caucus)*

524 *Co-sponsors: Drew Lombardi, Max Dunitz, and Dani Follett (DA France, DPCA Voting Reps)*

525

526 **Whereas** Democrats Abroad honors the men and women of our armed forces and
527 believes strongly that their service deserves our deepest gratitude and respect; and

528

529 **Whereas** many service members who retire or separate from the armed forces reside
530 overseas; and

531

532 **Whereas** an increasing number of young veterans now use the Post-9/11 GI Bill to study
533 abroad; and

534

535 **Whereas** Democrats Abroad advocates for expanding access to healthcare and other
536 services provided by the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs for any veteran who lives abroad;
537 and

538

539 **Whereas** President Biden has signed H.R.1276 (the SAVE LIVES Act) into law,
540 expanding VA legal authority to provide COVID-19 vaccinations to all U.S. veterans –
541 regardless of their VA healthcare-enrollment status – as well as their households,
542 including spouses and other family members, caregivers, and other beneficiaries; and

543

544 **Whereas** veterans living abroad are not being vaccinated unless they are military retirees
545 (TRICARE), and then only in the few countries that have U.S. military hospitals or VA
546 facilities;

547

548 **Therefore Be It Resolved** that Democrats Abroad urges Congress to provide the
549 Secretary of Veterans Affairs with the means to expand the provisions of the Foreign
550 Medical Program and, in conjunction with the U.S. Dept. of Defense, to implement a
551 vaccination program and pandemic-response policy so that all U.S. veterans abroad –
552 regardless of their retirement status – and their households, including spouses, other
553 family members, caregivers, and other beneficiaries, have access to vaccinations at
554 military hospitals.

555

556 #16

In Support of Medicare Portability:

ADOPTED

557
558 *Proposed by: Heather Stone (DA Israel, Executive Vice Chair); LeeAnn Sandler (DA Israel,*
559 *DPCA Voting Rep)*

560
561 *Authors: Heather Stone and Orlando Vidal (DA United Arab Emirates, Legal Counsel)*

562 *Co-sponsors: listed below*

563

564 **Whereas** working Americans are obliged to pay into the Medicare system but cannot
565 benefit from the system if they subsequently reside abroad; and

566

567 **Whereas** Americans residing abroad receiving Social Security benefits suffer Medicare
568 deductions from such benefits even though they cannot benefit from Medicare; and

569

570 **Whereas** the U.S. Congress recently authorized and gave appropriations to the Centers
571 for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMMS)¹⁹ to undertake a feasibility study on
572 reducing its expenses by allowing Americans to obtain Medicare-equivalent services
573 abroad while maintaining the level of services provided and allowing those Americans to
574 reside abroad where they may reunite with family; and

575

576 **Whereas** the DPCA mandated the creation of a Medicare Portability Task Force in 2015,
577 and the reasons for doing so continue to be urgent and important (see the adopted
578 resolution incorporated here as an appendix), but no such task force ever engaged in
579 actions, research, or reports to the DPCA or the members of DA;

580

581 **Therefore Be It Resolved** that the DPCA shall support legislation and regulations to
582 allow Americans living abroad, or considering moving abroad, to benefit from the U.S.
583 Medicare system into which they have paid; and

584

585 **Be It Further Resolved** that the DPCA shall support legislation and regulations to
586 protect Americans living abroad from suffering economic penalties regarding the U.S.
587 Medicare system; and

588

589 **Be It Further Resolved** that the DPCA shall support the conduct of an international
590 Medicare portability feasibility study to measure the reduction of costs on the Centers for
591 Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMMS) and encourage family reunification for
592 families abroad; and

593

594 **Be It Further Resolved** that the DPCA shall encourage country committees where the
595 Medicare portability feasibility study will take place to support the study; and

596

¹⁹ “Creative Ideas to Lower Health Care Costs.—The Committee encourages CMS to develop creative projects to lower the cost of care among older populations, including projects that could leverage international collaborations. CMS is directed to provide a progress update on these efforts in the fiscal year 2022 CJ.” p.141 Senate LHHS Approp 116th Congress. This needs to be reintroduced in Congress to gain support from both houses.

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Be It Further Resolved that the DPCA shall create a Medicare Portability Task Force to monitor such legislation and regulations and bring the interests of Democrats Abroad before the relevant committees and regulators, working under the direction of the DPCA Executive Committee and reporting quarterly to the DPCA on its activities.

Co-sponsors: Julia Bryan (International Chair, DA Czech Republic); Angela Fobbs (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Germany); David Mivasair (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Canada); Kendra Borgen (Chair, DA Netherlands); David Wenk (Vice Chair 2019-2021, DA United Kingdom); Quaide Williams (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Germany); Antar Keith (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Germany); Rachel Eugster (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Canada); Will Bakker (RVC-EMEA, DA Luxembourg); Onelica Andrade (Vice Chair, DA Belgium); Katie Solon (DNC Member, DA Germany); Candice Kerestan (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Germany); Sam Khunaizi (Chair, DA United Arab Emirates); Rajib Sengupta (Vice Chair, DA India); Meredith Wheeler (DPCA Voting Rep, DA France); Angela-Jo Touza-Medina (DPCA Voting Rep DA Spain); Reno Domenico (Acting Chair, DA Ukraine); Josh Van der Ploeg (DPCA Voting Rep, DA United Kingdom); David Shallenberger (Chair, DA Ecuador); Alicia Kauffman (DPCA Voting Rep, DA United Arab Emirates); Angie Vachio (Vice Chair, DA Costa Rica); Lissette Wright (International Treasurer, DA Canada); Austin Allaire (DPCA Voting Rep, DA United Kingdom); Ada Shen (DPCA Voting Rep, DA France); Matthew Goldman (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Belgium); Beth Landry (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Sweden); Kenneth Sherman (DNC Member, DA Canada); Carmelan Polce (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Australia); Kim Antonsen (Chair, DA Panama); Jimmy Colon (Vice Chair, DA Colombia); Natalie Bachiri (Chair, DA Luxembourg); Aaron Kruse (DNC Member, DA China); Ridah Sabouni (Chair 2019-2021, DA United Arab Emirates).

622 #21

623 **To Condemn Recent Anti-Transgender Legislation**
624 **and to Support Passage of the Equality Act**

625 **ADOPTED as amended**

626 *Proposed by: Austin Allaire (DA UK, DPCA Voting Rep) and Brian Westley (DA UK, Non-voting*
627 *DPCA Rep)*

628 *Co-sponsors: listed below*

629
630 **Whereas** 16 anti-LGBTQ laws have been enacted since the beginning of 2021; and

631
632 **Whereas** recent legislation passed in the state of Arkansas serves as a case study of the
633 perils of such laws; and

634
635 **Whereas**, on April 2, 2021, Republicans in the Arkansas General Assembly voted to
636 override Governor Asa Hutchinson’s veto to enact the Save Adolescents From
637 Experimentation (SAFE) Act; and

638
639 **Whereas** this law bans gender-confirming surgery for anyone under 18 and prohibits
640 doctors from providing transgender youth with puberty blockers or hormone therapy; and

641
642 **Whereas** this law makes Arkansas the first state to ban this type of vital medical care for
643 transgender individuals; and

644
645 **Whereas** this law is opposed by the American Medical Association, American
646 Psychological Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Civil
647 Liberties Union (ACLU); and

648
649 **Whereas**, according to research from The Trevor Project, denying gender-affirming
650 healthcare has the potential to cause adverse effects, including depression and suicidal
651 ideation, among transgender youth; and

652
653 **Whereas** Mississippi has become the first state to enact a law excluding transgender
654 women and girls from playing sports; and

655
656 **Whereas** 31 states have introduced more than 100 pieces of legislation targeting the
657 transgender community in the United States this year alone; and

658
659 **Whereas** anti-transgender legislation passed at the state level would be superseded by the
660 passage of a federal expansion of civil rights protections in the form of the Equality Act;
661 and

662
663 **Whereas** the Equality Act would protect LGBTQ+ people from discrimination in
664 employment, housing, credit, jury service, and federally-funded programs such as those
665 for health and education, as well as in public places and spaces;

666
667 **Therefore Be It Resolved** that Democrats Abroad calls upon the State of Arkansas to
668 repeal its discriminatory anti-transgender law; and

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Be It Further Resolved that DA condemns any and all anti-LGBTQ+ legislation in the United States; and

Be It Further Resolved that Democrats Abroad supports passage of the Equality Act and will mobilize the global membership to contact their Senators to ask them to support the Equality Act and emphasize the need for filibuster reform.²⁰

Co-sponsors: Brett McHargue (Vice Chair, DA UK); Joshua Van der Ploeg, (DPCA Voting Rep, DA UK); Fred Sprague (DPCA Voting Rep, DA UK); Nicole Belanger Satullo (DPCA Voting Rep, DA UK); Susan Alksnis (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Canada; Global Progressive Caucus Co-chair); David Mivasair (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Canada); Daniel James (Chair, DA Spain); Max Dunitz (DPCA Voting Rep, DA France); Antar Keith (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Germany); Tre' Shawn L. Griffin-Noordermeer (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Netherlands; Global LGBTQ+ Caucus Co-Chair); Cory J. Lemke (Chair, DA Republic of Korea; Global AAPI Caucus Co-Chair); Beth Landry (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Sweden); Juan Cerda (DPCA Voting Rep, DA France); John Lindsay (DPCA Voting Rep, DA UK); Wen-Wen Lindroth (Chair, DA UK); Joann Short (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Republic of Korea); Martha McDevitt-Pugh (DNC Member, Global LGBTQ+ Caucus Co-Chair, DA Netherlands); Candice Kerestan (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Germany); Monica Tanouye (DPCA Voting Rep, DA UK); Natalie Bachiri (Chair, DA Luxembourg); Caroline Rouchonnet (DPCA Voting Rep, DA UK); Stephanie Randall (DPCA Voting Rep, DA UK); Steve Nardi (Chair 2019-2021, DA Canada); Aaron Kruse (DNC Member, DA China); Jim Mercereau (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Spain); Hope Bradberry (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Mexico); Katie Solon (DNC Member, DA Germany).

²⁰ “and encourages our members to support it as well” was amended to read “and will mobilize the global membership to contact their Senators to ask them to support the Equality Act and emphasize the need for filibuster reform.”

694 #23

695 **In Support of Non-Citizen Service Members, their Families,**
696 **Deported Veterans, and H.R. 1182:**
697 **the Veterans Deportation Prevention and Reform Act**

698 **ADOPTED**

699 *Proposed by: Erin Watson, DA ROK, Chair 2019-2021; Global VMF Caucus Co-Chair)*

700 *Author: Anthony “Mike” Nitz (DA Vietnam)*

701 *Co-sponsors: listed below*

702

703 **Whereas** more than 44,000 immigrants joined the U.S. Armed Forces during 2013-2018
704 with the promise of citizenship for themselves and their families; and

705

706 **Whereas** the Government Accountability Office (GAO) reported in 2019 that, during the
707 same period, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) targeted approximately 250
708 veterans for removal from the country and ordered 115 of them removed; and

709

710 **Whereas** the GAO report noted that some non-citizen veterans may have been ordered
711 removed despite ICE policies meant to give them special consideration; and

712

713 **Whereas** ICE has no policy for identifying and documenting all veterans it encounters,
714 so the actual number targeted and removed is possibly much higher; and

715

716 **Whereas** policy changes made by the Dept. of Defense (DoD) and U.S. Citizenship and
717 Immigration Services (USCIS) made naturalization for service members and their
718 families more difficult; for example: 1) recruits were no longer eligible for naturalization
719 during basic training; 2) non-citizen service members’ children born at duty stations
720 abroad were no longer considered residents and thus no longer gained automatic
721 citizenship; and 3) service members’ non-citizen children who lived with them at duty
722 stations abroad were no longer considered U.S. residents, and thus no longer gained
723 residency time towards citizenship; and

724

725 **Whereas** Rep. Mark Takano (D, CA-41) has introduced HR 1182, the “*Veteran*
726 *Deportation Prevention and Reform Act*”, which would: 1) require ICE to properly
727 identify service members, veterans, and covered family members during removal
728 proceedings; 2) establish best practices and require annual training for ICE personnel on
729 maintaining proper data both on veterans in removal proceedings and on those who have
730 been removed; 3) create a streamlined program for citizenship through military service
731 such that a) any eligible non-citizen who serves on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces,
732 and their spouse and minor children, shall be naturalized if they submit an application,
733 and b) recruiters shall receive thorough training on these provisions, including points of
734 contact within the Dept. of Homeland Security for resolving emergency situations; and 4)
735 create a program for the return of eligible deported veterans, and adjust the immigration
736 status of non-citizen veterans to non-citizen lawfully admitted for permanent residence;
737 and

738

739 **Whereas** the DA 2020 Platform states: 1) “We fully support the members of our armed
740 forces, whose service and dedication deserve our deepest respect and gratitude, as do the
741 contributions and sacrifices of their families;” 2) “Families belong together; reunited
742 families create stable communities. Immigration policy that separates family members
743 creates trauma, compromising mental health, and prevents immigrants from building a
744 stable life in the U.S.,” and 3) “Immigrants must be granted the American citizenship that
745 was promised them in return for military service; we condemn their unjustified
746 deportation, and we condemn denying citizenship rights to dependents of U.S. personnel
747 deployed abroad;” and

748
749 **Whereas** codification into law of a streamlined path to naturalization for non-citizen
750 service members and their spouses and children regardless of duty location would prevent
751 the political “ping pong” of USCIS policies when the White House changes parties and
752 would: 1) prevent separation of military families, as became necessary for non-citizen
753 children to earn residency time; and 2) right the wrong of the U.S. Government not
754 fulfilling its citizenship promises to non-citizen service members and their families; and
755

756 **Whereas** allowing for the return of eligible deported veterans and changing the
757 immigration status of non-citizen veterans to non-citizen lawfully admitted for permanent
758 residence would: 1) prevent the deportation of veterans outside of the most egregious
759 cases, and 2) right the wrong of the U.S. Government deporting veterans for non-violent
760 infractions;

761
762 **Therefore Be It Resolved** that Democrats Abroad supports: a streamlined path to
763 naturalization for service members and their families that does not punish being stationed
764 abroad; the return of most deported veterans to the United States; and the adjustment of
765 immigration status of non-citizen veterans to non-citizen lawfully admitted for permanent
766 residence; and

767
768 **Be It Further Resolved** that DA shall create a task force for supporting the passage of
769 H.R. 1182, the Veteran Deportation Prevention and Reform Act.

770
771 *Co-sponsors: Susan Alksnis (DA Canada, DPCA Voting Rep; Global Progressive Caucus Co-*
772 *Chair); Kim Antonsen (DA Panama, Chair); Natalie Bachiri (DA Luxembourg, Chair); Kenton*
773 *Barnes (DA Germany, Chair); Kendra Borgen (DA NL, Chair); John Baumlin (DA Japan,*
774 *Chair); Greg Dolezal (DA Vietnam, Chair); Reno Domenico (DA Ukraine, Acting Chair); Max*
775 *Dunitz (DA France, DPCA Voting Rep); Kee Evans (DA Guatemala, Chair); Angela Fobbs (DA*
776 *Germany, DPCA Voting Rep; Global Black Caucus Chair); Jose Miguel Madrigal (DA Costa*
777 *Rica, DPCA Voting Rep); Antar Keith (DA Germany, DPCA Voting Rep); Candice Kerestan (DA*
778 *Germany, DPCA Voting Rep); Cory Lemke (DA South Korea, Chair; Global AAPI Caucus Co-*
779 *Chair); Anya Leonhard (DA Germany, DPCA Voting Rep); Emily Lines (DA Germany, Vice*
780 *Chair; Global AAPI Caucus Co-Chair); David Mivasair (DA Canada, DPCA Voting Rep); Steve*
781 *Nardi (DA Canada, Chair 2019-2021); Quyen Nguyen (DA Columbia, Chair); Laura Rostowfske*
782 *Reilly (DA Spain, DPCA Voting Rep); LeeAnn Sandler (DA Israel, DPCA Voting Rep); Robert*
783 *Scott (DA Germany, DPCA Voting Rep); Ada Shen (DA France, DPCA Voting Rep); Joann Short*
784 *(DA ROK, DPCA Voting Rep); Christine Valverde (DA New Zealand, Chair); Meredith Wheeler*
785 *(DA France, DPCA Voting Rep); Quaide Williams (DA Germany, DPCA Voting Rep; EMEA*

786 Deputy RVC); Katie Solon (DA Germany, DNC Member); Amerika Grewal (DA Fiji; Global
787 Hispanic Caucus Chair; A/P Deputy RVC).

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789

Sources

- 790 1: [Government Accountability Office Report on Immigration Enforcement, June 2019](#)
791 2: [USCIS Policy Manual memos](#)
792 3: [Policy change updating residency definitions for children of US service members stationed](#)
793 [overseas](#)
794 4: [INA 320](#)
795 5: [INA 322](#)
796 6: [Text of HR 1182](#)

797

Appendix and Amplifying Information

798 Terminology

- 799 ○ GAO: Government Accountability Office
800 ○ ICE: U.S. Immigration and Citizenship Enforcement
801 ○ DoD: Department of Defense
802 ○ USCIS: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
803 ○ MEPS: Military Entrance Processing Station
804 ○ MAVNI: Military Accessions Vital to National Interest (a category of recruit)
805 ○ Removal: Deportation
806 ○ Naturalization: Admittance of a foreign national to citizenship of the United States
807 ○ Veteran: A person who has served as a member of the Armed Forces who was discharged
808 or released under conditions other than dishonorable.
809 ○ Covered family member: The non-citizen spouse or non-citizen minor child of a member of
810 the Armed Forces or a veteran.
811 ○ Eligible veterans (for return to the U.S.): A non-citizen veteran who was not deported,
812 determined inadmissible, or deportable because of a conviction for a crime of violence or a
813 crime that endangers the national security of the United States for which the veteran has
814 served a term of imprisonment of at least 5 years. Eligibility waivers are defined under
815 Section 11(c)(e)(2).
816 ○ Crime of violence: An offense that is not a purely political offense and for which a term of
817 imprisonment of at least 5 years has been served.
818 ○ Aggravated felony: A term used to describe a category of offenses carrying particularly
819 harsh immigration consequences for non-citizens convicted of such crimes. An aggravated
820 felony does not require the crime to be “aggravated” or a “felony” to qualify. Instead, an
821 “aggravated felony” is an offense that Congress sees fit to label as such and today includes
822 many nonviolent and potentially minor offenses. Definition from the American
823 Immigration Council.

824

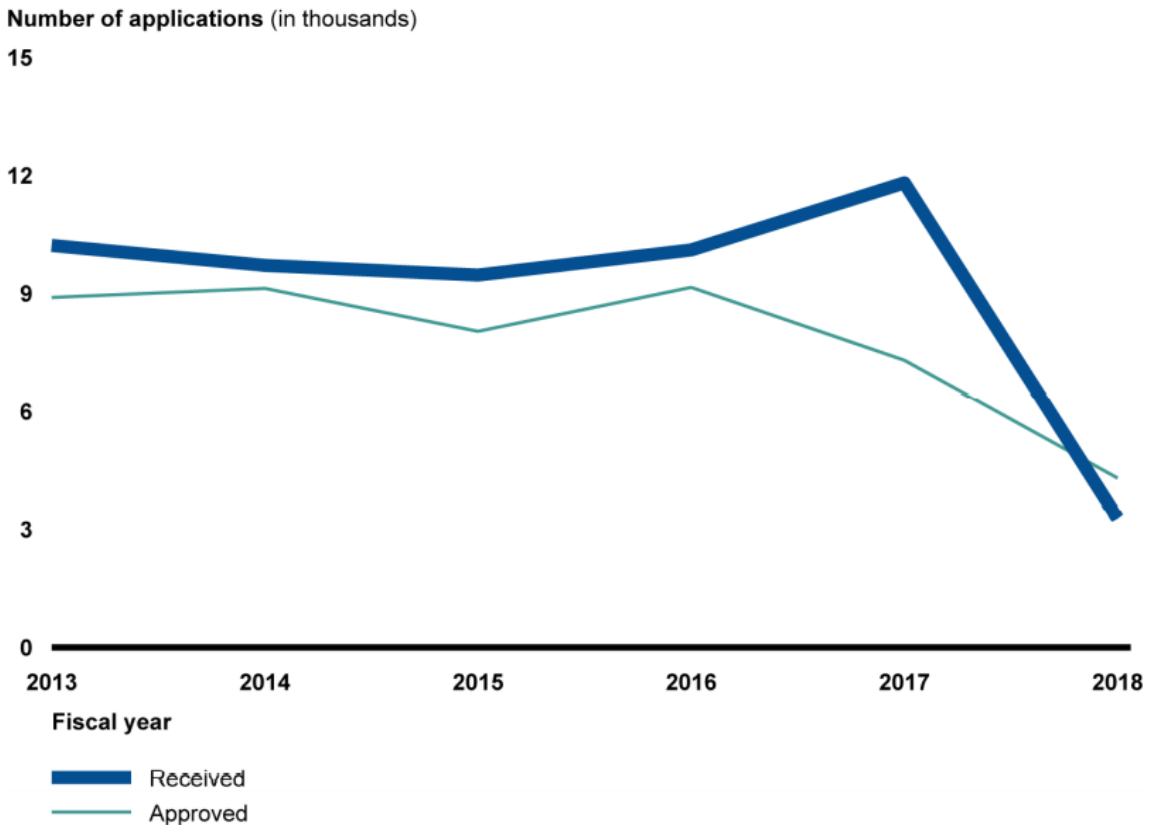
825 Why Does This Matter?

- 826 ■ According to the 2018-19 report¹ published by the Government Accountability Office
827 (GAO), more than 44,000 non-citizens enlisted or were appointed in the U.S. military
828 between 2013 and 2018. It found that:
829 ■ U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) does not consistently adhere to its
830 policies for handling cases of potentially removable veterans and does not consistently
831 identify and track such veterans, defined as:
832 ■ At a minimum, considering the veteran’s overall criminal history, evidence of
833 rehabilitation, family and financial ties to the United States, employment history, health,

834 community service, duty status (active or reserve), assignment to a war zone, number of
835 years in service, and decorations awarded.

- 836 ▪ Because ICE did not consistently follow its own procedures, some veterans who were
837 deported may not have received the level of review and approval that ICE has determined
838 is appropriate for cases involving veterans.
- 839 ▪ ICE has not developed a policy to identify and document all veterans it encounters.
- 840 ▪ ICE does not maintain complete electronic data on veterans who have been placed in
841 removal proceedings or removed.
- 842 ▪ Available data indicated that approximately 250 veterans were placed in removal
843 proceedings or removed from the United States from fiscal years 2013 through 2018, but
844 that:
 - 845 ▪ The information available was limited in scope and incomplete such that there could be
846 many more veterans who were placed in removal proceedings or removed between 2013
847 and 2018.
 - 848 ▪ By the end of fiscal year 2018, about 115 of these 250 veterans had been ordered removed
849 from the United States and 92 of those 115 had been removed.
 - 850 ▪ The six most common countries of nationality for veterans targeted for deportation were
851 Mexico (40), Jamaica (30), El Salvador (about 10), Trinidad and Tobago (about 10),
852 Germany (about 10), and Guatemala (about 10).
 - 853 ▪ For the 87 deported veterans whose ICE files identified criminal charges, 48 of those
854 charges were drug or theft-related convictions that were likely non-violent in nature.
 - 855 ▪ While U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and the Department of Defense
856 (DoD) have policies facilitating the naturalization of noncitizen service members and
857 veterans, the number of service members applying for naturalization has decreased, such
858 that:
 - 859 ▪ The number of non-citizen service members who applied for naturalization decreased by
860 72% between fiscal years 2017 and 2018 from 11,812 applications in fiscal year 2017 to
861 just 3,291 applications in fiscal year 2018.

Figure 2: Military Naturalization Applications U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Received and Approved, Fiscal Years 2013 through 2018



Source: GAO analysis of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) data. | GAO-19-416

Note: According to USCIS officials, the number of applications approved in 2018 exceeded the number of applications submitted because USCIS was processing applications submitted in prior fiscal years.

- 862 ■
- 863 ■ A series of changes to USCIS and DoD policy made applications for naturalization more
- 864 burdensome for some service members and may have caused some of the decrease in
- 865 naturalization applications, namely:
- 866 ■ In July 2017, USCIS determined that completion of DoD background checks that were
- 867 implemented in 2016 were relevant to MAVNI recruits' eligibility for naturalization and
- 868 thus began requiring said recruits to complete all required DoD background checks before
- 869 USCIS would interview them for military naturalization.
- 870 ■ In October 2017, the DoD increased the time non-citizens must serve before their
- 871 honorable service will be certified for naturalization purposes to completion of security
- 872 screening, basic training, and 180 days of service. Before, recruits were typically able to
- 873 naturalize during basic training.
- 874 ■ In January 2018, USCIS ended its policy of allowing naturalization of new enlistees at
- 875 basic training sites because the October 2017 changes to DoD policy made new recruits no
- 876 longer eligible for naturalization.
- 877 ■ USCIS's processing time for military naturalizations increased from an average of 5.4
- 878 months in fiscal year 2017 to 12.5 months in fiscal year 2018.

- 879 ▪ While deportation alone does not affect VA benefits and services eligibility, veterans living
- 880 abroad are eligible for fewer benefits and services than those living in the United States,
- 881 namely:
- 882 ▪ Veterans living abroad are not eligible to receive comprehensive health care, but instead
- 883 may only receive reimbursement for treatment of service-connected conditions.
- 884 ▪ Veterans living abroad may only utilize education benefits at VA-approved higher
- 885 education programs where the veteran will earn a standard college degree or its equivalent.
- 886 In the states, veterans are able to use education benefits for apprenticeships and other job
- 887 training opportunities as well.
- 888 ▪ Veterans living abroad are not as broadly eligible for vocational rehabilitation and
- 889 employment services such as a plan for extended evaluation due to the need for medical
- 890 referrals and intensive case management requirements that must take place within the
- 891 United States.
- 892 ▪ Veterans are only eligible for VA home loans in the United States or its territories or
- 893 possessions.
- 894 ▪ Veterans removed from the United States and barred from returning are unable to attend
- 895 hearings to appeal a VA disability rating decision because these hearings are conducted
- 896 exclusively within the United States.
- 897 ○ USCIS memos² from August 28th, 2019 and October 29th, 2019 updated the requirements
- 898 for residency in statutory provisions related to citizenship, such that:
- 899 ▪ Non-citizen service members who adopt or have children while serving abroad would no
- 900 longer have their children be eligible for automatic citizenship and instead must apply for
- 901 citizenship for their children.
- 902 ▪ Non-citizen children³ of service members do not qualify as residing within the United
- 903 States while living with parents stationed abroad for the purpose of naturalization under
- 904 INA 320⁴.
- 905 ▪ Non-citizen children of service members may still apply for naturalization under INA 322⁵,
- 906 but they must reside with a U.S. citizen parent who has resided within the United States for
- 907 at least 5 years to be eligible. Non-citizen service members cannot apply for citizenship for
- 908 their children via this method, and service members who already have teenage children
- 909 when they join would be unable to apply while stationed abroad.

911 **What Primary Things Does the “Veteran Deportation Prevention and Reform Act”**

912 **Accomplish?**

- 913 ○ Requires ICE to properly identify whether an individual is a service member, veteran, or
- 914 covered family member during removal proceedings.
- 915 ○ Requires annual training for ICE on maintaining proper data on veterans in removal
- 916 proceedings, veterans who have been removed, and establishing best practices for
- 917 addressing issues related to the removal of veterans.
- 918 ○ Initiates a study and subsequent report on non-citizen veterans removed from the United
- 919 States.
- 920 ○ Creates a Military Family Immigration Advisory Committee to provide recommendations
- 921 to the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Attorney General on the exercise of
- 922 prosecutorial discretion in cases involving removal proceedings of service members,
- 923 veterans, and covered family members.
- 924 ○ Requires that a list of countries that refuse to repatriate nationals who have enlisted or been
- 925 appointed in the U.S. Armed Forces be compiled and updated annually.
- 926 ○ Creates a program of citizenship through military service, such that:

- 927 ▪ Any individual non-citizen who serves on active duty in the Armed Forces and the non-
928 citizen spouse and non-citizen minor child of said service member shall be naturalized if
929 they apply for naturalization and are not otherwise ineligible for citizenship, and
930 ▪ All recruiters in the Armed Forces receive training regarding the steps for citizenship for
931 non-citizen service members, limitations on the path to citizenship for family members of
932 said service members, and points of contact within the Department of Homeland Security
933 to resolve emergency immigration-related situations for these families.
934 ○ Ensures that each MEPS has an employee of USCIS or appropriate service member trained
935 in pertinent immigration laws whose responsibility will be to inform non-citizen recruits of
936 the process for naturalization.
937 ○ Creates a program for the return of eligible veterans removed from the United States and
938 adjustment of immigration status for non-citizen veterans to that of a non-citizen lawfully
939 admitted for permanent residence, and
940 ○ Establishes a new definition of good moral character for applications of citizenship from
941 veterans who served honorably that would no longer exclude veterans solely on the
942 grounds of conviction of an aggravated felony.
943

944 **More Reading**

- 945 ○ [Article](#) on automatic citizenship for children of non-citizen troops abroad
946 ○ [Article](#) on Trump administration policies that opened the doors for non-citizen service
947 members, their families, and veterans to be deported
948 ○ [Article](#) on policy changes that led to Military Accessions Vital to National Interest
949 (MAVNI) recruits being “weeded out”
950 ○ [Article](#) on deported veterans
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#24

Supporting S.1520 the Military Justice Improvement and Increasing Prevention Act to Protect Military Women & Men from Sexual Harassment & Assault

ADOPTED

Proposed by: Erin Watson (DA ROK, Chair 2019-2021), Constance Borde (DA France, DPCA Voting Rep) and (Author) Marnie Delaney (DA France, Global Women's Caucus Violence Against Women team lead)

Co-sponsors: listed below

Whereas for decades the U.S. military has been plagued by sexual assault, harassment, and victim retribution if reported; and

Whereas the DA Platform already supports protecting sexual assault survivors and removing prosecutions from the chain of command; and

Whereas the rate of sexual assault and rape of female service members increased by 50% from 2016 to 2018;⁽¹⁾ and

Whereas it is estimated that 7500 male service members were sexually assaulted or raped in 2018;⁽²⁾ and

Whereas estimates of sexual assault at military service academies have increased by 50% since 2014;⁽³⁾ and

Whereas male LGBTQ+ service members experience an elevated risk of sexual and stalking victimization;⁽⁵⁾ and

Whereas 59% of women who reported a penetrative sexual assault were assaulted by someone with a higher rank than them, including 24% by someone in their chain of command;⁽⁶⁾ and

Whereas 76% of military victims in 2018 did not report the assault to military authorities;⁽⁷⁾ and

Whereas, although there are no estimates of the number of civilians sexually assaulted by military members, about 20% of all reports made to the military are by civilians, meaning there are likely thousands of civilians who are victims of military sexual assault;⁽⁸⁾ and

Whereas the Department of Defense announced a record number of reported sexual assaults against service members in 2019, of 5,699 reports only 363 (6.4%) were tried by courts martial, resulting in only 138 (2.4%) convictions;⁽⁹⁾ and

Whereas military women who report sexual assault are twelve times as likely to experience retaliation than to see their attacker convicted;⁽¹⁰⁾ and

999 **Whereas** exposure to sexual assault doubled the odds that a service member would leave
1000 the military within 28 months;⁽¹¹⁾ and

1001
1002 **Whereas** we can appreciate and commend attempts made via hundreds of internal and
1003 legislative mandates, recommendations, and personnel requirements, nevertheless they
1004 have not reduced the rate of sexual assault or increased the justice delivered to survivors;
1005 and

1006
1007 **Whereas** the women and men who bravely serve our country deserve a workplace free
1008 from sexual harassment, abuse, and violence; and

1009
1010 **Whereas** the most critical reform reflected in Senator Kirsten Gillibrand’s proposed
1011 Military Justice Improvement and Increasing Prevention Act (S.1520), would be to
1012 empower independent military prosecutors, rather than commanders, with the authority to
1013 make prosecutorial decisions for serious criminal accusations including rape, murder,
1014 sexual assault, and domestic abuse (while leaving uniquely military crimes in the hands
1015 of commanders); and

1016
1017 **Whereas** empowering independent military prosecutors would free commanders of
1018 conflicting responsibilities, improve their ability to maintain good order and discipline,
1019 prevent sexual harassment, strengthen national security, and better enable the military to
1020 recruit, retain, and promote the nation’s best and brightest; and

1021
1022 **Whereas** a substantial number of DA’s members are veterans or active service military,
1023 their families or others working to support the military abroad; and

1024
1025 **Whereas** good order and the effective working of the military justice system have a
1026 direct impact on the health and safety of these members; and

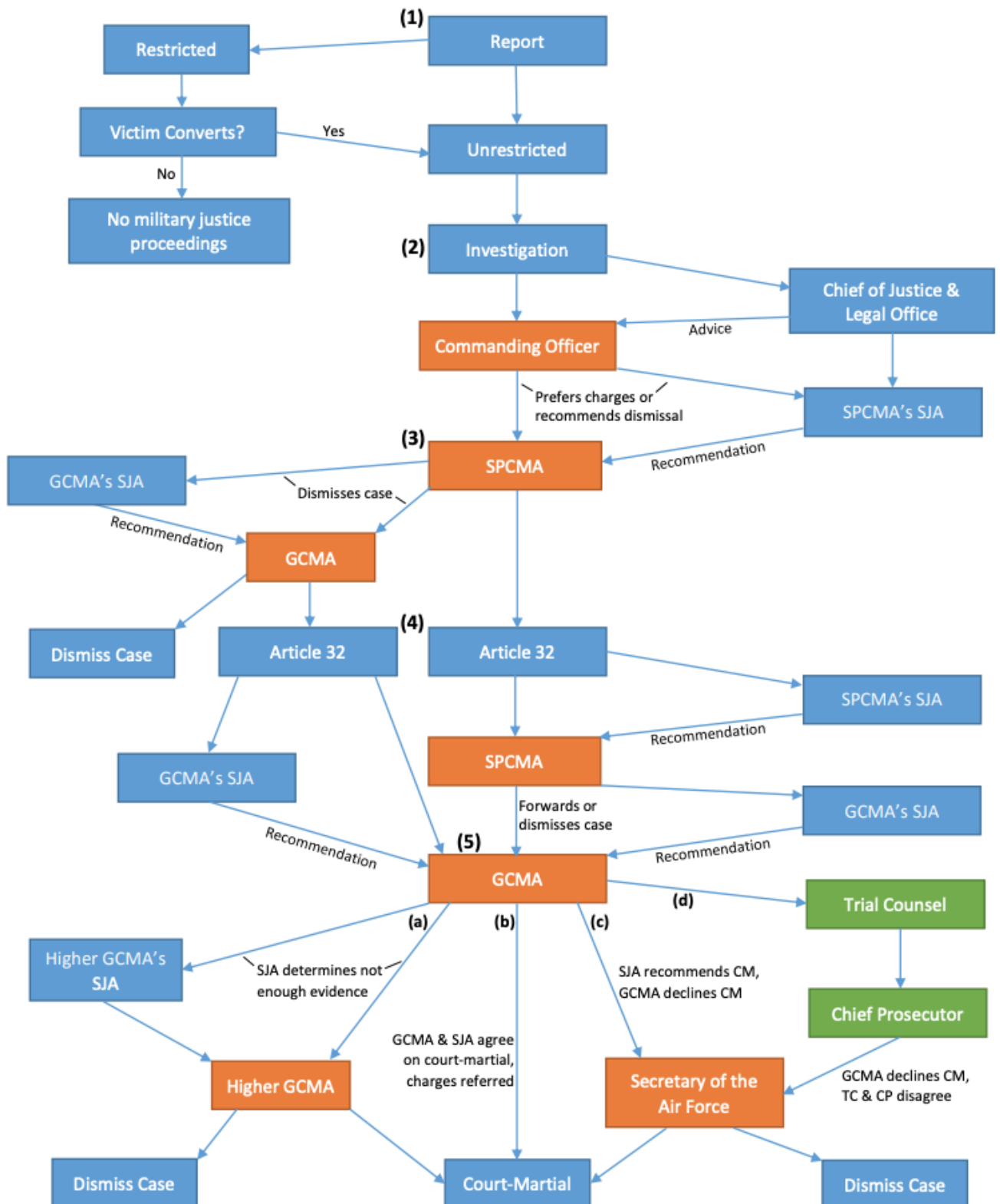
1027
1028 **Whereas** the Military Justice Improvement and Increasing Prevention Act would provide
1029 a fundamental solution to the long-standing inadequacy of the current system for
1030 addressing cases of sexual violence;

1031
1032 **Therefore Be It Resolved** that Democrats Abroad supports and urges swift passage of
1033 S.1520 – the Military Justice Improvement and Increasing Prevention Act – or similar
1034 legislation.

1035
1036
1037 (1) (2) (3) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9) Statistics from the 2016-2019 DoD SAPRO Reports and their
1038 appendices/annexes <https://www.sapr.mil/reports>
1039 (10) Human Rights Watch Study (2015) Embattled Retaliation Against Sexual Assault Survivors
1040 in the U.S. Military: [https://www.protectourdefenders.com/press-release-protect-our-defenders-](https://www.protectourdefenders.com/press-release-protect-our-defenders-and-human-rights-watch-release-report-on-retaliation-of-military-sexual-assault-survivors/)
1041 [and-human-rights-watch-release-report-on-retaliation-of-military-sexual-assault-survivors/](https://www.protectourdefenders.com/press-release-protect-our-defenders-and-human-rights-watch-release-report-on-retaliation-of-military-sexual-assault-survivors/)
1042 (11) Rand Corporation Military Workplace Study 2014 Andrew R. Morral et.al. “Effects of
1043 Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment on Separation from the U.S. Military
1044

1045 Co-sponsors: Martha McDevitt-Pugh (DA Netherlands, DNC Member; Global LGBTQ+ Caucus
1046 Co-Chair); Tre' Shawn L. Griffin-Noordermeer (DA Netherlands, DPCA Voting Rep; Global
1047 LGBTQ+ Caucus Co-Chair); Denise Roig, (DA Canada, DPCA Voting Rep); Meredith Wheeler
1048 (DA France, DPCA Voting Rep); Katie Solon (DA Germany, DNC Member); Will Bakker (DA
1049 Luxembourg, Regional Vice Chair EMEA); Anna Marie Mattson (DA France, DPCA Voting Rep
1050 2019-2021); Susan Fitoussi, (DA France, DPCA Voting Rep Alternate); Rajib Sengupta (DA
1051 India, Vice Chair); Cory Lemke (DA ROK, Vice Chair; Global AAPI Caucus Co-Chair); Shari
1052 Temple (DA Germany, DPCA Voting Rep; Interim Global Secretary); Christina Skovsgaard (DA
1053 Norway, Vice Chair); Max Dunitz (DA France, DPCA Voting Rep); Candice Kerestan (DA
1054 Germany, DPCA Voting Rep); Robert J. Petrusa (DA Canada, DPCA Voting Rep); Antar Keith
1055 (DA Germany, DPCA Voting Rep); Patrick Cranley (DA China, Vice Chair); Kathryn Tullos (DA
1056 Spain, Vice Chair); Emily Lines (DA Germany, Vice Chair; Global AAPI Caucus Co-Chair);
1057 Aaron Kruse (DA China, DNC Member); Matthew Goldman (DA Belgium, DPCA Voting Rep);
1058 Ken Sherman (DA Canada, DNC Member); Dani Follett (DA France, First Vice Chair); Robert
1059 Scott (DA Germany, DPCA Voting Rep); Kee Adams Evans (DA Guatemala, Chair); Vanessa
1060 Moore (DA Singapore, Chair); Steve Nardi (DA Canada, Chair 2019-2021); Natalie Bachiri (DA
1061 Luxembourg, Chair); Connie Borde, (DA France, DPCA Voting Rep); and the Global Women's
1062 Caucus Steering Committee (Ann Hesse, Chair); the Global Black Caucus Steering
1063 Committee (Angela Fobbs, Chair).
1064

Current Command-Based Military Justice Process
Air Force - Penetrative Sexual Assaults



1066 #26

Advocating Against Prison Gerrymandering

ADOPTED

1067
1068
1069 *Proposed by: Maya Buchanan (DA UK, DPCA Voting Rep); Adrienne Johnson (DA UK, DPCA*
1070 *Voting Rep); Wen-Wen Lindroth (DA UK, Chair); Julia Bryan (DA CZ, DA Global*
1071 *Chair)*

1072 *Co-sponsors: listed below*
1073

1074 **Whereas** the 2020 DA Platform recognized that prison gerrymandering is an unfair
1075 practice damaging to the communities and districts from which prisoners come, in terms
1076 of both democratic representation and the deprivation in under-served communities of
1077 vital resources; and

1078
1079 **Whereas** prison gerrymandering is especially salient as we approach the once-every-ten-
1080 years redistricting process; and

1081
1082 **Whereas** prison gerrymandering compounds negative consequences for felons, who
1083 often struggle to be re-enfranchised after completing their sentences and in communities
1084 where there's often too little local funding for re-entry support;

1085
1086 **Whereas** prison gerrymandering compounds the negative impacts of Congressional
1087 gerrymandering;

1088
1089 **Therefore Be It Resolved** that, consistent with H.R. 1, the *For The People Act*, passed so
1090 far by the House of Representatives, Democrats Abroad urges both the Census Bureau
1091 and State government agencies to count prisoners at their last residence before
1092 incarceration.

1093
1094 *Co-sponsors: Chris Reilly (DA Spain, DPCA Voting Rep), Meredith Wheeler (DA*
1095 *France, DPCA Voting Rep), Steve Nardi (DA Canada, 2019-2021 Chair), Josh Van der Ploeg*
1096 *(DA UK, DPCA Voting Rep), Aaron Kruse (DA Singapore, DNC Member),*
1097 *Caroline Ruchonnet (DA UK, DPCA Voting Rep), Jim Christiansen (DA France, DPCA*
1098 *Voting Rep), David Mivasair (DA Canada, DPCA Voting Rep), Stephanie Randall (DA*
1099 *UK, DPCA Voting Rep), John Lindsay (DA UK, DPCA Voting Rep), Austin Allaire*
1100 *(DA UK, DPCA Voting Rep), Martha McDevitt-Pugh (DA Netherlands, DNC Member),*
1101 *Natalie Bachiri (DA Luxembourg, Chair), Kim Antonsen (DA Panama, Chair), Kendra*
1102 *Borgen (DA Netherlands, Chair), Heather Stone (DA Israel, Executive Vice Chair), Ellie*
1103 *Wallis (DA Ecuador, Vice Chair), Angie Vachio (DA Costa Rica, Vice Chair), Ada Shen*
1104 *(DA France, DPCA Voting Rep), Max Dunitz (DA France, DPCA Voting Rep), Rajib Sengupta*
1105 *(DA India, Vice Chair), Tre' Shawn L. Griffin-Noordermeer (DA Netherlands, DPCA Voting*
1106 *Rep), Christine Valverde (DA New Zealand, Chairperson); Katie Solon (DA Germany, DNC*
1107 *Member), Kathryn Tullos (DA Spain, Vice Chair); Antar Keith (DA Germany, DPCA Voting*
1108 *Rep); Bill Borden (DA Sweden, DPCA Voting Rep).*

1109
1110 **What is Prison Gerrymandering?** <https://www.prisonersofthecensus.org/impact.html>

1111 **State legislation** <https://www.prisonersofthecensus.org/legislation.html#pending>

1112 **Other recent articles:**

1113 <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/11/opinion/prison-gerrymandering-census.html>
1114 <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/economy/the-u-s-spends-billions-to-lock-people-up-but-very-little-to-help-them-once-theyre-released>
1115

1116
1117 **H.R. 1, Section 2701 (g)(1) provides:** “Effective beginning with the 2020 decennial
1118 census of population, in taking any tabulation of total population by States under
1119 subsection (a) for purposes of the apportionment of Representatives in Congress among
1120 the several States, the Secretary shall, with respect to an individual incarcerated in a
1121 State, Federal, county, or municipal correctional center as of the date on which such
1122 census is taken, attribute such individual to such individual’s last place of residence
1123 before incarceration.

1124 [https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-](https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/1/text#tocH1A2DB57FE627439BAF8FCDA7D46EA01A)
1125 [bill/1/text#tocH1A2DB57FE627439BAF8FCDA7D46EA01A](https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/1/text#tocH1A2DB57FE627439BAF8FCDA7D46EA01A)
1126

1127 Information and action from the NAACP: [https://www.naacpldf.org/case-issue/prison-](https://www.naacpldf.org/case-issue/prison-basedgerrymandering-reform/)
1128 [basedgerrymandering-reform/](https://www.naacpldf.org/case-issue/prison-basedgerrymandering-reform/)
1129

1130 Solutions to be enacted at the State level:
1131 <https://www.prisonersofthecensus.org/solutions.html>
1132

1133 A key court case: [https://www.brennancenter.org/legal-work/national-association-](https://www.brennancenter.org/legal-work/national-association-advancementcolored-people-et-al-v-merrill-et-al)
1134 [advancementcolored-people-et-al-v-merrill-et-al](https://www.brennancenter.org/legal-work/national-association-advancementcolored-people-et-al-v-merrill-et-al)
1135

1136 Case studies and analyses: <https://harvardpolitics.com/united-states/48325/>
1137

1138 The Census and prisoners:
1139 2010 [https://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2010/02/11/counting-prisoners-in-the-2010-](https://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2010/02/11/counting-prisoners-in-the-2010-census/)
1140 [census/](https://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2010/02/11/counting-prisoners-in-the-2010-census/) 2018 [https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/program-](https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/program-management/memoseries/2020-memo-2018_04.pdf)
1141 [management/memoseries/2020-memo-2018_04.pdf](https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/program-management/memoseries/2020-memo-2018_04.pdf)
1142

1143
1144 [1] During 1992 -1994, 83 of 138 new prisons were built in rural areas.:
1145 <https://harvardpolitics.com/united-states/48325>
1146

1147 [2] Time served in state prison, 2016: <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/tssp16.pdf> and in
1148 federal prison, 2015:
1149 [https://www.pewtrusts.org/~media/assets/2015/11/prison_time_surges_for_federal_inma-](https://www.pewtrusts.org/~media/assets/2015/11/prison_time_surges_for_federal_inmates.pdf)
1150 [tes.pdf](https://www.pewtrusts.org/~media/assets/2015/11/prison_time_surges_for_federal_inmates.pdf)
1151

1152
1153 **Briefing Notes Prison gerrymandering:**
1154 Supplementary information in support of the Resolution to campaign against prison
1155 gerrymandering
1156

1157 **I. Definitions and the issues at stake:**

1158 Prison gerrymandering occurs when the Census Bureau counts prisoners as residents of
1159 the prisons where they are incarcerated rather than at their pre-incarceration addresses
1160 and State legislatures use this Census data to draw their district maps.

1161 These practices artificially inflate the voting power of the districts where prisons are
1162 located, skewing district maps. In all but two states (Maine and Vermont), prisoners are
1163 not allowed to vote. A significant number of correctional facilities are located in
1164 comparatively rural areas that are largely Republican and predominantly white, while
1165 prisoners tend to hail from urban, often Democratic communities, and are
1166 disproportionately minorities.

1167 It is wrong to count prisoners as residents of communities whose demographic makeup
1168 differs from the inmates' home communities. Inflating the power of residents in districts
1169 with prisons violates the constitutional principle of "one person, one vote."
1170

1171 **II. Impacts**

1172 **A. Unequal voting power at the state and local level between districts housing prisons and**
1173 **those without prisons**

1174 Districts with prisons receive enhanced representation. The relatively small populations
1175 of rural cities and towns mean that the placement of a single prison can have a significant
1176 impact on their population.

1177 In many rural counties and city governments, substantial portions of individual districts
1178 consist of incarcerated people, not actual residents. For example, after the 2010 Census it
1179 was found that in Calhoun County in Florida, 48% of the people in District 4 were
1180 incarcerated at the Calhoun Correctional Institute, so residents of District 4 wielded
1181 almost twice as much voting weight as people elsewhere in the county, state, and country
1182 [1]. Since these prisoners cannot vote elected officials do not have to be accountable to
1183 them.

1184 Using prisons to enhance votes in individual districts within one region cumulatively
1185 gives the whole region additional representation.

1186 **B. Impacts for voting and resources in the districts where prisoners permanently reside:**

1187 Prison gerrymandering damages the communities and districts where prisoners and their
1188 families reside, both in terms of democratic representation and in terms of deprivation of
1189 already under-served communities of vital resources, because the Census is also used as a
1190 basis for the allocation of federal resources for services such as healthcare, education, etc.

1191 Prison populations are often disproportionately non-white, so prison gerrymandering
1192 results in voting discrimination on the basis of race or color. While the average prison
1193 sentence for an African American male convicted of a felony is 3.5 years (20% higher
1194 than the national average), the impact on the community and district where the prisoners
1195 lived pre-incarceration is cumulative [2].

1196 **C. Legal bases for opposing to prison gerrymandering**

1197 Prison gerrymandering violates the Constitutional guarantee of "one person one vote."

1198 The Supreme Court of the United States has held that voting districts should contain
1199 roughly equal numbers of people to ensure the 14th Amendment guarantee of equal rights
1200 for all, and "one person, one vote."

1201 Prison gerrymandering also violates Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, which provides
1202 that minority voters must have an equal opportunity to elect candidates of their choice,

1203 which can't be achieved if the voting power of the majority is inflated by prison
1204 gerrymandering.

1205
1206 III. Why DA should take a stand

1207 Prison gerrymandering, alongside other forms of gerrymandering and voter suppression,
1208 shifts power to conservative, rural areas, giving Republicans an unfair advantage [3], and
1209 perpetuates a historical pattern of disenfranchisement of black voters and other people of
1210 color. In addition, it has pernicious effects on state elections, which enable Republicans
1211 to control the voting process and continue a vicious cycle of voter suppression and
1212 disenfranchisement.

1213 The citizens and communities most harmed by prison gerrymandering, gerrymandering in
1214 general, and voter suppression (urban communities of color, young people, poor people,
1215 women, and progressive whites) comprise a large portion of our Democratic base.
1216 Democrats cannot win without the full participation of these voters.

1217 Increasingly, Democratic leaders, citizens, constituents, lawmakers, and candidates are
1218 taking a stand and concerted action to protect voters' rights. These actions respond to the
1219 extreme gerrymandering since 2010, and to widespread voter suppression, which surged
1220 after the gutting of the Voting Rights Act by the Supreme Court in 2013 [4].

1221 Disenfranchisement harms all U.S. citizens, including our own families and friends at
1222 home.

1223 If a key purpose in Democrats Abroad is to get out the vote and create Democratic wins,
1224 then we should be at the forefront of taking a stand and using our voice and powers to
1225 combat any and all forms of gerrymandering, to encourage our elected leaders and
1226 candidates to do the same and to stand with those who are working to eradicate voter
1227 suppression.

1228 We have our once-every-10-year opportunity to support a change in the way that
1229 prisoner's residency is counted at the state level, before the 2021 redistricting process.
1230 Democrats and Democrats Abroad have a moral and strategic imperative to take a stand
1231 when our right to vote and our democracy is compromised, and to help make real the
1232 promise that every vote matters.

1233
1234 IV. Solutions:

1235 A. Urge that the Census Bureau stops counting prisoners as residents of the district where
1236 the prison or jail where they are incarcerated is located.

1237 While we appreciate the need to maintain the integrity, reliability, and validity (in
1238 statistical terms) of the definition of residency for the purpose of the Census (as distinct
1239 from definitions used for voting
1240 rights, legal and tax purposes), prisoners are in a unique situation. They are not voluntary
1241 residents, are prohibited from interaction with the community and making use of local
1242 resources where they are incarcerated, and generally do not plan to remain in the
1243 community. [5]

1244 A precedent exists for the Census treating a group as 'exceptional': e.g. counting U.S.
1245 military and federal U.S. government civilian employees based abroad at their 'pre-
1246 deployment home' addresses.

1247 Moreover, the current Census practice of counting prisoners as residing in prisons is in
1248 defiance of “most state constitutions and statutes, which explicitly state that incarceration
1249 does not change a residence.”[6]
1250 Comparisons are often drawn with the ways the Census Bureau counts prisoners, college
1251 students studying away from home (counted at their college residences) and U.S. military
1252 and civilian employees deployed abroad. However, the treatment of residency for these
1253 students or abroad U.S. employees does not have the potential to violate Section 2 of the
1254 Voting Rights Act which the treatment of prisoners’ residency demonstrably does.
1255 As noted below (Section B), the Census Bureau has agreed to offer breakdowns of
1256 prisoner populations for the 2020 census, to enable states to make their own adjustments
1257 during the redistricting process in
1258 order to create fair, nonpartisan maps. This is an important first step in combatting prison
1259 gerrymandering.
1260 Nevertheless, we urge that the Census Bureau stop treating prisoners’ residency as
1261 prison-based, since their ‘residency’ is exceptional.
1262 B. Urge that individual States agree not to include prison gerrymandering within their
1263 borders.
1264 Federal court decisions have made clear that states need not use Census figures to create
1265 districts. [8]
1266 States can correct the Census data by creating a state-level census that collects the home
1267 addresses of people in prison and then adjusts the U.S. Census counts prior to
1268 redistricting.
1269 Legislation, in part modeled after how Kansas changes where the U.S. Census counts
1270 students and the military, has already passed in California, Delaware, Maryland, Nevada,
1271 New York, and Washington. [7]
1272 According to Pew Research, “all states will for the first time [in the 2020 census], receive
1273 breakdowns of prisoner populations in early 2021 for redistricting purposes. This data
1274 will allow states to take federal prison populations out of their redistricting equation.” [8]
1275
1276 Citations:
1277 [1] Fixing prison-based gerrymandering after the 2010 Census: Florida.
1278 <https://www.prisonersofthecensus.org/50states/FL.html>
1279 [2] Study estimates U.S. population with felony convictions. <https://news.uga.edu/total->
1280 [uspopulation- with-felony-convictions/](https://news.uga.edu/total-)
1281 [3] How the rural-urban divide is putting Democrats at a disadvantage.
1282 <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/how-the-rural-urban-divide-is-putting->
1283 [democrats-at-adisadvantage/](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/how-the-rural-urban-divide-is-putting-)
1284 [4] Restoring the Voting Rights Act. <https://www.brennancenter.org/analysis/how-we->
1285 [canrestore- voting-rights-act](https://www.brennancenter.org/analysis/how-we-)
1286 [5] Final 2020 Census Residence Criteria and Residence Situations (April 2018)
1287 <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/02/08/2018-02370/final-2020->
1288 [censusresidence- criteria-and-residence-situations](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/02/08/2018-02370/final-2020-)
1289 [6] The Problem <https://www.prisonersofthecensus.org/impact.html> [7] Solutions
1290 <https://www.prisonersofthecensus.org/solutions.html>
1291 [7] Solutions <https://www.prisonersofthecensus.org/solutions>

1292 [8] Counting Prison Inmates Differently Could Shift Political Power to Cities.
1293 [https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-
analysis/blogs/stateline/2019/01/02/countingprison- inmates-differently-could-
shift-political-power-to-cities](https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-
1294 analysis/blogs/stateline/2019/01/02/countingprison- inmates-differently-could-
1295 shift-political-power-to-cities)

1296

1297 **Prison gerrymandering: further information and sources**

1298 What is Prison Gerrymandering? <https://www.prisonersofthecensus.org/impact.html>

1299 State legislation <https://www.prisonersofthecensus.org/legislation.html#pending>

1300 Impact on democracy at the state level: 37 states analyzed

1301 <https://www.prisonersofthecensus.org/problem/state.html>

1302 Estimates of U.S. population with felony convictions [https://news.uga.edu/total-us-
1304 populationwith-felony-convictions/](https://news.uga.edu/total-us-
1303 populationwith-felony-convictions/)

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