

**HR 13 - AS INTRODUCED**

2023 SESSION

23-0646

08/10

HOUSE RESOLUTION

**13**

A RESOLUTION      affirming support for the people of Puerto Rico.

SPONSORS:          Rep. Schmidt, Straf. 14

COMMITTEE:        State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs

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ANALYSIS

This resolution affirms the house of representatives support for the people of Puerto Rico.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Three*

A RESOLUTION affirming support for the people of Puerto Rico.

1 Whereas, Puerto Rico became a United States territory in 1898 by the Treaty of Paris, which  
2 ended the Spanish-American War; and

3 Whereas, in 1917, the residents of Puerto Rico were granted American citizenship by their own  
4 free and voluntary election, and after 1941 by birth, to further integrate Puerto Rico into the United  
5 States; and

6 Whereas, for more than 100 years, the people of Puerto Rico have contributed greatly to the  
7 United States and to democracy by serving with dedication and honor in all armed conflicts in the  
8 United States Armed Forces; and

9 Whereas, since becoming a territory of the United States more than 200,000 Puerto Ricans have  
10 served in the United States Armed Forces, and more than 25,000 Puerto Ricans currently serve on  
11 active duty; and

12 Whereas, as proud American citizens, Puerto Ricans have distinguished themselves in every  
13 field of endeavor and developed strong political, economic, social and cultural ties to the United  
14 States; and

15 Whereas, despite their United States citizenship, Puerto Rican residents are ineligible to vote in  
16 the United States federal elections and lack voting representation in Congress; and

17 Whereas, Puerto Ricans' dissatisfaction with the federal response to the massive devastation and  
18 approximately 3,000 deaths resulting from Hurricane Maria in 2017 and the still-unsettled  
19 bankruptcy of the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority have intensified the debate surrounding  
20 possible statehood, and

21 Whereas, although Puerto Ricans pay federal payroll taxes, their access to the services those  
22 taxes finance including Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income, Supplemental Nutrition  
23 Assistance, and the Earned Income Tax credit is not equivalent to the extent afforded in the states;  
24 now, therefore, be it

25 Resolved by the House of Representatives:

26 That the house of representatives of the state of New Hampshire declares its support for the  
27 people of Puerto Rico in choosing how best to govern themselves whether by becoming a state in the  
28 union or becoming an independent nation; and

29 Resolved that copies of this resolution be transmitted by the house clerk to the members of the  
30 New Hampshire congressional delegation and the Governor of Puerto Rico.