

The original documents are located in Box 13, “8/6/75 - Statement on Signing of Voting Rights Bill” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

The President gave
the text to
Rep. Barbara Jordan

STATEMENT ON SIGNING OF VOTING RIGHTS BILL

AUGUST 6, 1975

STATEMENT UPON

SIGNING OF VOTING RIGHTS BILL

AUGUST 6, 1975

I AM PLEASED TODAY TO SIGN H.R. 6219, WHICH EXTENDS
AND BROADENS THE PROVISIONS OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965.
THE RIGHT TO VOTE IS AT THE VERY FOUNDATION OF OUR AMERICAN
SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT -- AND NOTHING MUST INTERFERE WITH THIS
PRECIOUS RIGHT.

TODAY IS THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING
BY PRESIDENT JOHNSON OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965,
WHICH I SUPPORTED. IN THE PAST DECADE, THE VOTING
RIGHTS OF MILLIONS OF AMERICANS HAVE BEEN PROTECTED AND
OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED
IMMEASURABLY.

THE BILL I AM SIGNING TODAY EXTENDS THE TEMPORARY
PROVISIONS OF THE ACT FOR SEVEN MORE YEARS AND BROADENS
THESE PROVISIONS TO BAR DISCRIMINATION AGAINST
SPANISH-SPEAKING AMERICANS, AMERICAN INDIANS,
ALASKAN NATIVES AND ASIAN-AMERICANS.

FURTHER, THIS BILL WILL PERMIT PRIVATE CITIZENS, AS WELL AS THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, TO INITIATE SUITS TO PROTECT THE VOTING RIGHTS OF CITIZENS IN ANY STATE WHERE DISCRIMINATION OCCURS.

THERE MUST BE NO QUESTION ABOUT THE RIGHT OF
EACH ELIGIBLE CITIZEN TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR ELECTIVE
PROCESS. THE EXTENSION OF THIS ACT WILL HELP TO
ENSURE THAT RIGHT.

END OF TEXT

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Dorothy -

Since the President gave
Barbara Jordan the original --
would you like to have this copy?

Trudy

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