

**2001 DRAFTING REQUEST**

**Assembly Resolution**

Received: **11/05/2001**

Received By: **dykmapj**

Wanted: **Today**

Identical to LRB:

For: **Pedro Colon (608) 267-7669**

By/Representing: **Jerry Lowery**

This file may be shown to any legislator: **NO**

Drafter: **dykmapj**

May Contact:

Addl. Drafters:

Subject: **Memorials - Congress to**

Extra Copies:

Submit via email: **YES**

Requester's email: **Rep.Colon@legis.state.wi.us**

Carbon copy (CC:) to:

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**Pre Topic:**

No specific pre topic given

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**Topic:**

Self determination for Puerto Rico

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**Instructions:**

See Attached

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**Drafting History:**

<u>Vers.</u>	<u>Drafted</u>	<u>Reviewed</u>	<u>Typed</u>	<u>Proofed</u>	<u>Submitted</u>	<u>Jacketed</u>	<u>Required</u>
/1	dykmapj 11/05/2001	gilfokm 11/05/2001	pgreensl 11/05/2001	_____	lrb_docadmin 11/05/2001	lrb_docadmin 11/06/2001	

FE Sent For:

<END>

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*(Handwritten notes and signatures)*  
 ASSM  
 plh  
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1?	dykmapj	1-11/5 KMG	1/5 ps	1/5 ps/R			

FE Sent For:

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PJD: f...  
AMG

## 2001 ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION

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**Relating to:** petitioning the President of the United States and the Congress of the <sup>U.S.</sup> ~~United States~~ to enact legislation that would define the political status options available to the U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico and authorize a plebiscite to provide an opportunity for Puerto Ricans to make an informed decision regarding the island's future political status.

Whereas, in 1898, the United States, aided by a significant number of Puerto Rican citizens, defeated the Spanish in the Spanish-American War; and

Whereas, the Treaty of Paris signed by the United States on December 10, 1898, and ratified by the United States on February 6, 1899, formally ended the Spanish-American War and established Puerto Rico as a territory of the United States; and

Whereas, persons born in Puerto Rico have been and are U.S. citizens since 1917 but do not possess full citizenship rights and the people of Puerto Rico do not enjoy representative democracy as a state of the Union or as an independent

1 republic; and, although U.S. citizens, they are not permitted to vote in U.S.  
2 presidential elections and have no voting representation in the U.S. Congress; and

3       Whereas, despite the fact that over 200,000 Puerto Ricans have fought in all  
4 wars participated in by the ~~U.S.~~<sup>United States</sup> since World War I, including our current war against  
5 terrorism, and nearly 2,000 have sacrificed their lives for democratic principles and  
6 self-determination, and ~~many~~<sup>four</sup> of them have received the Congressional Medal of  
7 Honor, yet they are not allowed to vote for their Commander-in-Chief; and

8       Whereas, Puerto Ricans pay all federal taxes except income and estate taxes,  
9 but they receive lower levels of federal benefits than residents of the States, and are  
10 excluded from or have limited participation in certain federal programs; and

11       Whereas, the current status is not helping the economy of Puerto Rico and  
12 federal economic policy has fostered dependence, caused massive capital flight, and  
13 a tremendous brain drain; and the subsidizing of the present colonial relationship  
14 costs U.S. taxpayers approximately \$15 billion per year; and

15       Whereas, a resolution of the status issue would bring stability and economic  
16 development to the island that would sharply reduce or eliminate this burden on our  
17 taxpayers; and

18       Whereas, ever since the transition to ~~Commonwealth~~<sup>Commonwealth</sup> status in 1952, the  
19 majority of the people of Puerto Rico have sought an end to their status as a  
20 "territory"; and

21       Whereas, in over ~~one hundred years~~<sup>100 years</sup> of U.S. sovereignty, the U.S. government  
22 has never formally consulted the American citizens of Puerto Rico on their political  
23 status preference, and in 1997 the legislature of Puerto Rico formally petitioned the  
24 ~~United States~~<sup>U.S.</sup> Congress to respond to the democratic aspirations of the U.S. citizens

1 of Puerto Rico by means of a federally sanctioned plebiscite to be held no later than  
2 1998, and Congress has not yet responded to this petition; and

3 Whereas, Puerto Rico has held ~~two~~<sup>2</sup> non-binding referendums since 1993, and  
4 the most recent one indicated that only 0.06% of the population are satisfied with the  
5 status quo of being a territorial commonwealth, confirming that there is no longer  
6 the consent of the governed for the existing territorial status; and

7 Whereas, self-determination means presenting the U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico  
8 with an informed choice among valid, non-colonial status alternatives outlined in a  
9 clear, unambiguous plebiscite consistent with the U.S. Constitution; and

10 Whereas, the State of Wisconsin has a significant Puerto Rican community and  
11 an ever-increasing Hispanic population which has and continues to contribute to the  
12 state's economy and well-being; and

13 Whereas, the experience of the people of Wisconsin in resolving their own  
14 territorial status in 1848, after 65 years as a territory, makes them sympathetic to  
15 the aspirations of the people of Puerto Rico to resolve their own political status; now,  
16 therefore, be it

17 **Resolved by the assembly,** That the members of the <sup>Wisconsin</sup> assembly of the State of  
18 ~~Wisconsin~~<sup>U.S.</sup> request that the Congress and the President of the United States enact  
19 legislation that would define the political status options available to the ~~United~~<sup>U.S.</sup>  
20 ~~States~~<sup>U.S.</sup> citizens of Puerto Rico and authorize a plebiscite to provide for Puerto Ricans  
21 to make an informed decision regarding the island's future political status; and <sup>be</sup>  
22 it further

23 **Resolved, That** the members of the <sup>assembly</sup> State of Wisconsin request the Wisconsin  
24 congressional delegation to actively promote and support timely action on this  
25 important national issue; and <sup>be</sup> it further

