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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING LEGISLATION THAT WOULD DEFINE THE POLITICAL STATUS
OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO UNITED STATES CITIZENS OF PUERTO RICO AND
WOULD AUTHORIZE A PLEBISCITE TO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR
PUERTO RICANS TO MAKE AN INFORMED DECISION ABOUT THEIR FUTURE
POLITICAL STATUS.

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

WHEREAS, on March 2, 1917, President Woodrow Wilson
signed the Puerto Rican Federal Relations Act, popularly known
as the Jones Act, which extended United States citizenship to
the residents of Puerto Rico but did not provide them with
representation in the United States congress or give them the
right to vote for the president of the United States; and

WHEREAS, since 1917, more than two hundred thousand
United States citizens from Puerto Rico have served valiantly
in every war and armed conflict in which our nation has fought
in defense of American democratic principles and
self-determination; and

WHEREAS, four heroic Puerto Ricans, Hector
Santiago-Colon, Euripides Rubio, Carlos James Lozada and Louis

1 Fernando Garcia, have been awarded the congressional medal of
2 honor for their valor in defending American democracy and
3 freedoms; and

4 WHEREAS, the territory of New Mexico was also acquired
5 by the United States as a result of armed conflict, and New
6 Mexicans endured eighty-four years as a territory before
7 realizing their aspirations for permanent political status;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, New Mexico's great history, including its
10 ascension to statehood, is intertwined with our state's
11 Hispanic heritage; and

12 WHEREAS, in 1997, the legislature of Puerto Rico
13 formally petitioned the United States congress to respond to
14 the democratic aspirations of the United States citizens of
15 Puerto Rico by means of a federally sanctioned plebiscite to
16 be held no later than 1998, and congress has not yet
17 responded to this petition; and

18 WHEREAS, as a new millennium begins, the time has come
19 for Puerto Rico to exercise its right to self-determination
20 regarding its desire to attain full self-government within
21 the context of a congressionally authorized plebiscite; and

22 WHEREAS, the New Mexico senate and house of
23 representatives urge all New Mexicans and citizens of the
24 United States to support the enactment of a federal law
25 leading to full self-government for Puerto Rico;

