

FILE COPY - DO NOT REMOVE!  
Congressional Black Caucus

306-307 U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - ANNEX  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515 (202) 225-1691

PRESS  
RELEASE

April 29, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTACT: Ken Colburn  
225-1691

Bob Alcock  
225-7078

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS SUPPORTS BILL  
TO EXTEND AND EXPAND VOTING RIGHTS ACT

*Diags 345 F62-01*

The Congressional Black Caucus today announced its unanimous support for a bill which would extend the Voting Rights Act for an additional 10 years and expand its coverage to include many Spanish-speaking and other minority persons. The bill, H.R. 6219, was reported out of the House Civil and Constitutional Rights Subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee. The full House Judiciary Committee began deliberations on the bill today and will resume tomorrow morning.

Representative Barbara Jordan (D-Tex.), a sponsor along with Congressmen Herman Badillo (D-N.Y.) and Edward Roybal (D-Calif.) of an early proposal to extend the Act and expand it to cover other minorities, called the subcommittee's bill a "sound and necessary measure to protect the most fundamental of our democratic rights for all Americans." "We feel," she said, "that this bill is carefully drawn to protect black voting rights while bringing under its umbrella other minority groups who face similar voting problems."

In its Legislative Agenda made public earlier this year, the Congressional Black Caucus called for the ten-year extension of the Voting Rights Act and supported the principle of expanding the Act to "Spanish-speaking and other minorities who face severe problems of disenfranchisement." While few of the districts represented by Congressional Black Caucus Members are covered by the Voting Rights Act, Caucus members have felt a special obligation to assist minorities throughout the country to become involved in the political process.

The Caucus called on all Members of Congress to support this extension of the Voting Rights Act. "I think we will find," Representative Jordan said, "that many Members who previously had doubts about the Act, will respond to their new constituencies which are themselves testimony to the effectiveness of the Act."