



# U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., Chairman

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## *News Advisory*

For immediate release  
July 13, 2006

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## **House Overwhelmingly Approves Sensenbrenner's Bipartisan Voting Rights Act Extension Legislation**

### *Bipartisan Coalition Defeats All Amendments*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The House today overwhelmingly approved by a 390-to-33 margin bipartisan legislation that would extend expiring provisions of the Voting Rights Act for 25 years. H.R. 9, the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006, introduced by House Judiciary Committee Chairman F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr. (R-Wis.) and cosponsored by House Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.), House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), House Judiciary Ranking Member John Conyers, Jr. (D-Mich.), House Judiciary Constitution Subcommittee Chairman Steve Chabot (R-Ohio), Congressional Black Caucus Chairman Mel Watt (D-N.C.), and 147 other House Members, now goes to the Senate for consideration.

Chairman Sensenbrenner stated, “While the Voting Rights Act (VRA) is accurately described as the ‘crown jewel’ of the civil rights movement for having been successful in protecting minority voters who were historically disenfranchised in certain parts of the country, our work is not yet complete. Racial discrimination in the electoral process continues to exist and threatens to undermine the progress that has been made over the last 40 years.”

“By extending the VRA for an additional 25 years, H.R. 9 ensures that the gains made by minorities are not jeopardized. I am proud to stand here with my colleagues, as I did in 1982, to ensure that voting rights remain protected for an additional 25 years. Congress again made our Nation proud today by passing this historic and vital legislation,” added Chairman Sensenbrenner.

The House defeated all four amendments offered during today's debate.

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