

PRESS RELEASE

Congressman John Conyers, Jr.

**Fourteenth District, Michigan
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
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CONYERS BILL WOULD IMPLEMENT FINDINGS OF WAXMAN DETROIT STUDY

At today's House Government Reform Committee Special Investigations Briefing on Detroit Election Reform, Congressman John Conyers, Jr, called for the passage of H.R. 1170, the "Equal Protection of Voting Rights Act," an election reform bill with over 80 cosponsors, more than any other bill introduced to date. Conyers issued the following statement:

"Today is not about the real victor of the election, it is about the true intent of the voter. Undisputed in the recent media recount is that thousands of voters went to the polls to cast a vote for President and that vote was not counted.

What Detroit did was simple. They educated voters. They replaced antiquated punch card machines with machines that let voters know when the voter made a mistake and gave a voter the opportunity to fix it.

I benefitted from these new voting machines. My ballot was kicked out by the machine because I over voted in a judicial race. If not for this machine, my vote for President, Senate and Congress might not have been counted. But, because the machine let me know I made a mistake, I got the chance to correct it.

I believe it is inexcusable that this technology is not in every precinct in this country. In the age of the microchip, we shouldn't have stone age voting machines.

That is why I have introduced H.R. 1170, the "Equal Protection of Voting Rights Act," and I am proud that Mr. Waxman and many of the other members here are cosponsors of it. It proposes a number of commonsense election reforms. Among these is a uniform baseline standard for voting machines that every voting machine in the United States would be required to meet by 2004.

Every voting machine would be required to notify voters of over votes and under votes. This is a simple, commonsense solution that would make a world of difference."

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