

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 591

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Supreme Court of the United States should improve its employment practices with regard to hiring more qualified minority applicants to serve as clerks to the Justices.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 9, 1998

Mr. MEEKS of New York (for himself, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Supreme Court of the United States should improve its employment practices with regard to hiring more qualified minority applicants to serve as clerks to the Justices.

Whereas the United States Supreme Court, the highest court in the country, has the final say on such important issues as affirmative action, civil rights, access to education, workplace discrimination, religious freedom, prayer in school, voting rights, the 2000 Census, sexual harassment, police brutality, and death penalty appeals;

Whereas each of the 9 Justices are allowed four law clerks a year;

Whereas the power these clerks hold is immense;

Whereas they review all cases brought before the court and help decide which ones the Justices should hear;

Whereas while the Justices often determine how they will vote, the clerks usually put in all the reasoning;

Whereas however, the United States Supreme Court has a shameful record in hiring minority and women law clerks;

Whereas a recent study found that of the 428 law clerks hired during the respective terms of the sitting Justices—

- (1) only 1.6 percent were African-American;
- (2) only 1.2 percent were Hispanic-American;
- (3) 4.2 percent were Asian-American;
- (4) none were Native-American; and
- (5) only 25.2 percent were women;

Whereas this, despite the fact that more than 40 percent of law school graduates are now women and nearly 20 percent are minorities;

Whereas this lack of diversity within such an important body is unacceptable; and

Whereas these clerks have a dramatic impact on the lives of every American, yet they are in no way a reflection of America: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives that—

- 3 (1) the United States Supreme Court should
- 4 move in an expeditious manner to improve its em-
- 5 ployment practices with regard to hiring more quali-
- 6 fied minority applicants to serve as clerks; and

1 (2) the United States Supreme Court should
2 implement recruiting procedures to ensure that di-
3 versity is emphasized and not undermined.

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