

Castle Votes Yes on Voting Rights Act, Says Right to Vote is Fundamental Right of Citizenship -- July 13, 2006

House Approves Voting Rights Act Reauthorization

Washington D.C. -- Delaware Congressman Mike Castle today hailed the House's passage of H.R. 9, the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006, which renews expiring provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the cornerstone of civil rights legislation.

"The right to vote is a fundamental right of citizenship and a safeguard of our freedoms," Rep. Castle said. "As our founding fathers knew, no one can be free without the ability to make his or her voice heard through his or her elected representatives. The Voting Rights Act was first passed to right a great wrong - the denial of the right to vote to millions of Americans, based solely on the color of their skin. Today, even though some historical means of discrimination are less pervasive, new and creative methods of discrimination in the political process continue to emerge. The Voting Rights Act reauthorization we passed today is a reminder of our duty to protect the rights of every citizen and our commitment to ensuring that every American can exercise his or her right and privilege to vote," said Castle.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was passed to ensure that minority residents of states with a long history of discrimination could exercise their right to vote. The reauthorization the House passed today renews expiring provisions for 25 years and updates the act by eliminating outdated provisions.