



1 **Resolution in Support of Statehood for Puerto Rico**

2 **Whereas**, the islands of Puerto Rico have been under colonial rule since 1493, when it became a territory of
3 the Spanish Empire, and then, as a territory of the United States of America, from 1898 to the present day; and,

4 **Whereas**, Puerto Ricans have been US citizens for more than a century, after the approval, in March of 1917
5 of the Jones Act, by President Woodrow Wilson. Notwithstanding, to this day, the American citizens residing
6 in Puerto Rico do not share equal rights to those enjoyed by the inhabitants of the continental United States,
7 given Puerto Rico’s status as a territory. And thus, suffer from a second-class citizenship with a lack of
8 representation in both Houses of the U.S. Congress and the inability to vote for the President of the United
9 States; and,

10 **Whereas**, just as it was a centuries old struggle for African-Americans and for women to have full access to all
11 rights and obligations as American citizens, including the right to vote and to have political representation in
12 the political branches of the Government under the Constitution, so has been the case with our fellow citizens
13 in Puerto Rico.

14 **Whereas**, on both November 6, 2012, and June 11, 2017, through a legitimate exercise of their right to political
15 self-determination, the people of Puerto Rico spoke plainly, loud and clear, as to their desire to be admitted to
16 the United States as the 51st State of the Union; Now, therefore,

17 **Whereas**, the National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA) provides a medium for the exchange of
18 views and experiences on subjects important to the people of the states and territories, including the millions
19 of Puerto Ricans that reside on the island or in the 50 states; now, therefore,

20 **Be it resolved**, by the National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA), that it hereby confirms its support
21 of the Government of Puerto Rico and the Puerto Rican people’s efforts towards attaining statehood, as such
22 was the Puerto Rican electorate will expressed through their suffrage on November 6, 2012 and June 11 of
23 2017.

Sponsors: Secretary of State Luis Gerardo Rivera Marín; Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman, CT; Additional co-
sponsors: Lt. Gov. David Zuckerman, VT; Lt. Gov. Osbert Potter, VI; Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog, NMI