

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 3

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By: **Senator Conway**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2016

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **United States Congress – Call to Congress and the President to Act on**
3 **Redistricting Reform**

4 FOR the purpose of requesting that the United States Congress pass, and the President of
5 the United States sign, legislation that establishes uniform standards and
6 procedures applicable to each state for the creation of the districts for the election of
7 the members of the United States Congress; requiring that the resolution be
8 forwarded to the President and Vice President of the United States and to certain
9 members and officials of the United States Congress; and generally relating to
10 redistricting reform for the United States Congress.

11 WHEREAS, The states of the United States currently utilize a hodgepodge of
12 standards and methodologies to create the districts for the election of that state's
13 Representatives in the United States Congress; and

14 WHEREAS, The standards and methodologies currently used by the states to create
15 the districts for the election of the members of the United States Congress have resulted in
16 nonuniform and uneven delegations that do not reflect voters' political affiliations in those
17 states, thus leaving many voters feeling disenfranchised and unrepresented; and

18 WHEREAS, Voter unease is not limited to one party or one state, but is seen in
19 almost every state throughout the country, regardless of which political party holds
20 majority status; and

21 WHEREAS, Congressional redistricting has become a highly charged political
22 endeavor in states throughout the country that have confronted issues related to it, with
23 the results being that political concerns leave the members of both major political parties
24 unwilling forthrightly to confront the redistricting issue; and

25 WHEREAS, Action by Congress affecting all 50 states at once would aid the
26 redistricting process immensely by helping to take local political considerations out of the



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1 redistricting process and removing the partisan cloud surrounding redistricting legislation
2 throughout the country; and

3 WHEREAS, A solution enacted by Congress or the United States Supreme Court
4 would affect all states equally; impose uniform standards and procedures for the creation
5 of each state's districts for the election of Representatives to the United States Congress;
6 likely lead to districts across the country that are more uniform, even, and representative;
7 and also likely cause voters to feel more empowered and enfranchised; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the General
9 Assembly of Maryland requests that the United States Congress pass, and the President of
10 the United States sign, comprehensive legislation that establishes uniform standards and
11 procedures applicable to each state for the creation of the districts for the election of the
12 members of the United States Congress; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
14 Legislative Services to President Barack Obama, the White House, 1600 Pennsylvania
15 Ave., Washington, D.C. 20500; Vice President Joseph Biden, President of the United States
16 Senate, the White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, D.C. 20500; Ms. Nancy
17 Erickson, Secretary of the United States Senate, United States Senate, Washington, D.C.
18 20510; and the Maryland Congressional Delegation: Senators Barbara A. Mikulski and
19 Benjamin L. Cardin, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; and Representatives
20 Andrew P. Harris, C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger III, John P. Sarbanes, Donna Edwards,
21 Steny Hamilton Hoyer, John K. Delaney, Elijah E. Cummings, and Christopher Van
22 Hollen, Jr., House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.