

## **H. Res. 559**

### ***In the House of Representatives, U.S.,***

*October 2, 2002.*

Whereas the death or disability of hundreds of Members of Congress would deprive millions of Americans of representation in Congress, possibly for a period of months until special elections to fill the vacancies could be conducted;

Whereas such a catastrophe would severely impair the functioning of the House and effectively disrupt the legislative branch for an extended period;

Whereas the only method prescribed by the Constitution to fill a vacant seat in the House of Representatives is through election by the people;

Whereas article I, section 4 of the Constitution of the United States provides that “The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the places of choosing Senators.”;

Whereas section 26 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (2 U.S.C. 8) provides that “The time for holding elections in any State, District or Territory for a Representative or Delegate to fill a vacancy, whether such va-

cancy is caused by a failure to elect at the time prescribed by law, or by the death, resignation, or incapacity of a person elected, may be prescribed by the laws of the several States and Territories respectively;” and

Whereas it is in the interest of each State to ensure that the people maintain their full rights to representation in the House: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That—

(1) it is the sense of the House of Representatives that each State should examine its existing statutes, practices, and procedures governing special elections so that, in the event of a catastrophe, vacancies in the House of Representatives may be filled in a timely fashion; and

(2) the Clerk of the House shall send a copy of this resolution to the chief executive official of each State.

Attest:

*Clerk.*