



Media Contacts: Don Terry  
[dterry@rainbowpush.org](mailto:dterry@rainbowpush.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**May 15, 2017**

**NC REPUBLICANS SUFFER VOTING RIGHTS DEFEAT**

A statement by Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.

Today the Supreme Court of the United States refused to hear an appeal by North Carolina Republicans to overturn the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals ruling that North Carolina had engaged in intentional racial discrimination when it passed a voting rights law following the 2013 *Shelby* decision that gutted the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

It means a defeat for North Carolina Republican voter suppression efforts. When the law was passed, it was the worst legalized attack on voting rights in the nation in 2013. It cut back early voting by seven days (resulting in 200,000 fewer voters), eliminated Souls to the Polls Sunday (affecting a long-standing voting tradition among African American churches), changed the rules pertaining to out-of-precinct voting (resulting in 6,000 fewer votes), eliminated same-day voter registration (resulting in 21,000 fewer votes), ruled that 16-and-17-year-olds could not be pre-registered to vote, all laws that disproportionately affected African Americans, young people, seniors, the poor, workers and the disabled specifically - and Democratic voters generally.

The Court's refusal to hear the case, which means the Fourth Circuit's ruling stands and the unconstitutionality of intentional racial discrimination in voting generated by this law was sustained. However, the Court said it wasn't clear who had the authority to bring the case and, as a result, it didn't rule on the merits of the case. Nevertheless, today was a defeat for North Carolina Republican voter suppression efforts and the discrimination inherent in the scheme has been stopped – at least for now.

Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.

-30-

**Rainbow PUSH Coalition** is a multi-racial, multi-issue, progressive, international organization that was formed in December 1996 by the Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. through merging of two organizations he founded Operation PUSH People United to Serve Humanity (estab. 1971) and the Rainbow Coalition (estab. 1984). With headquarters in Chicago and offices in Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Detroit, Houston, Los Angeles, New York and Oakland, the organization works to make the American Dream a reality for all citizens while advocating for peace and justice around the world. RPC is dedicated to improving the lives of all people by serving as a voice for the voiceless. Its mission is to protect, defend and gain civil rights by leveling the economic and educational playing fields while promoting peace and justice around the world.

Get Informed & Be Social with PUSH!



@RPCoalition



Facebook



Instagram



@RevJJackson

Keep up with Rev. Jackson and the work of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition at [www.rainbowpush.org](http://www.rainbowpush.org).