

Congressman Jo Bonner issued the following comment in opposition to HR 2499, legislation prompting Puerto Rico to hold political status elections.

“On April 29, the U.S. House is scheduled to vote on legislation authorizing a federally-sanctioned vote in Puerto Rico over their political status.

While I believe that the people of Puerto Rico have the right to choose their own political future – be it to remain a U.S. commonwealth, become a U.S. state, or to seek total independence – I also believe the federal government should not attempt to pressure the people of Puerto Rico one way or another.

This legislation would break with the tradition of allowing the people to freely hold their own vote before any Congressional approval of statehood. Alaska and Hawaii voted on their own to join the Union and the people of Puerto Rico should not be forced down a path to statehood if they don't want it.

I will oppose this legislation and instead favor the right of the people of Puerto Rico to decide when and how to conduct their own vote over their political future.”