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PRESS RELEASE

**Secretary of State Jim Condos Praises 50th Anniversary of
Voting Rights Act**

Montpelier, VT—Secretary of State Jim Condos is joining his Secretary of State colleagues and Americans across the nation today to honor the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Voting Rights Act. This historic legislation, which was signed into law on August 6, 1965 by President Lyndon B. Johnson, protects the right to political participation for minority voters at the polls.

Secretary Condos states, “As Vermont’s Chief Election Officer, I find it important to celebrate the steps our country has taken in ensuring that every eligible citizen has the right and ability to vote without unnecessary barriers to the process.”

Secretary Condos continues, “Since the passage of the Voting Rights Act 50 years ago, we as a nation have come across many new obstacles in the realm of voting rights, but, in the spirit of this law, we have also continued to make progress in making elections accessible to all citizens. I am proud of Vermont’s efforts in adopting sound administrative practices which expand voting opportunities for all citizens. Initiatives like allowing the pre-registration and primary voting for 17 year-olds, expanding early voting, improving elections technology to aid elections officials, increasing access to absentee balloting, election day registration, and helping enfranchise overseas and military voters are all examples in which we are continuing to pursue free and fair elections in this nation.”

“As we look ahead to the next 50 years of voting in America,” Secretary Condos says, “I expect we will encounter many more hurdles. I look forward to being part of the discussion with Vermonters and fellow Secretaries of State as we keep paving the way for equality in our democratic process, and remind all eligible citizens about the importance of voting.”