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## **Young Democrats of America Side with Bush Taskforce Do What's Right: Give Puerto Rico a Choice**

Washington, DC- In a strong bipartisan move, Chris Gallaway, President of the Young Democrats of America (YDA), called upon Congress to follow the recommendation of the President Bush Administration's Task Force on Puerto Rico's Status to give the four million Puerto Rican residents an opportunity to democratically decide the fate of the American territory.

"For the Young Democrats of America, self-determination is the obvious choice," said President Gallaway. "I am glad to see that the Bush Administration's Taskforce agrees. Perhaps we can finally get the Republican Congress to pay attention to the needs of Puerto Rico."

The Bush Administration Task Force on Puerto Rico recommended to Congress that Puerto Ricans should be given an opportunity to determine the future of Puerto Rico, either as United States' state, or as an independent nation; a recommendation that is nearly identical to the position the Young Democrats of America adopted into the YDA Platform in August of 2005 at their national convention in San Francisco, CA.

Not only did the Young Democrats resolution closely match a provision of the 2004 Democratic Party National Platform, but in fact, the 2004 Republican National Platform recognized Congress' responsibility for providing "constitutionally-valid options for Puerto Rico to achieve a permanent non-territorial status" and called for periodic referenda on the issue in Puerto Rico.

"It is critical that the Republican-controlled Congress remain accountable on this issue and they should follow through, finally, on what their own National Platform binds them to do on this matter," said President Gallaway.

The Young Democrats of America (YDA) has been the official youth arm of the Democratic Party since 1932 and is the oldest and largest youth-led Democratic organization. YDA mobilizes young people under the age of 36 to participate in the electoral process and support the ideals of the Democratic Party. The nationwide grassroots organization has 40 chartered units and over 900 local chapters. The 60,000 plus membership--including high school students, college students, young workers, young professionals and young families--reflects the broad diversity of our nation and the Democratic Party.

For more information on the Young Democrats of America, visit [www.yda.org](http://www.yda.org).

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