
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT FEDERAL LEGISLATION
GRANTING STATEHOOD TO THE PEOPLE OF THE DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA.

1 WHEREAS, the people living on the land that would
2 eventually be designated as the District of Columbia were
3 provided the right to vote for representation in the United
4 States Congress when the United States Constitution was ratified
5 in 1788; and

6
7 WHEREAS, the passage of the Organic Act of 1801 placed the
8 District of Columbia under the exclusive authority of the United
9 States Congress and abolished residents' right to vote for
10 members of Congress and the President and Vice President of the
11 United States; and

12
13 WHEREAS, residents of the District of Columbia were granted
14 the right to vote for the President and Vice President through
15 the passage of the Twenty-Third Amendment to the United States
16 Constitution in 1961; and

17
18 WHEREAS, as of 2020, the United States Census Bureau data
19 estimates the District of Columbia's population at approximately
20 712,000 residents, which is comparable to the populations of
21 Wyoming (582,000 residents), Vermont (623,000 residents), Alaska
22 (731,000 residents), and North Dakota (765,000 residents); and

23
24 WHEREAS, residents of the District of Columbia share all
25 the responsibility of United States citizenship, including
26 paying more federal taxes than residents of twenty-two states,
27 serving on federal juries, and defending the United States as
28 members of the United States armed forces in every way since the
29 War for Independence; yet, they are denied full representation
30 in Congress; and



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1 WHEREAS, the residents of the District of Columbia
2 themselves have endorsed statehood for the District of Columbia
3 and passed a district-wide referendum on November 8, 2016, which
4 favored statehood with eighty-six percent of the votes; and
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6 WHEREAS, no other democratic nation denies the right of
7 self-government, including participation in its national
8 legislature, to the residents of its capital; and
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10 WHEREAS, the residents of the District of Columbia lack
11 full democracy, equality, and citizenship enjoyed by the
12 residents of the fifty states; and
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14 WHEREAS, the United States Congress has interfered
15 repeatedly with the District of Columbia's limited self-
16 government by enacting laws that affect the District of
17 Columbia's expenditure of its locally-raised tax revenue; this
18 includes barring the usage of locally-raised revenue, thus
19 violating the fundamental principle that states and local
20 governments are best suited to enact legislation that represents
21 the will of its citizens; and
22

23 WHEREAS, although the District of Columbia has passed
24 consecutive balanced budgets since Fiscal Year 1997, it still
25 faces the possibility of being shut down yearly because of
26 congressional deliberations over the federal budget; and
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28 WHEREAS, in the 117th Congress, the District of Columbia
29 Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton and Delaware U.S. Senator Tom
30 Carper introduced H.R. 51 and S. 51, the Washington, D.C.
31 Admission Act, that provides that the State of Washington, D.C.
32 would have all the rights of citizenship as taxpaying American
33 citizens, including representation in the United States Congress
34 consisting of two United States Senators and at least one United
35 States Representative; and
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37 WHEREAS, the United Nations Human Rights Committee has
38 called on the United States Congress to address the District of
39 Columbia's lack of political equality, and the Organization of
40 American States has declared the disenfranchisement of the
41 District of Columbia residents a violation of its charter



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1 agreement, to which the United States is a signatory; now,
2 therefore,

3
4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
5 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
6 of 2021, the Senate concurring, that the United States Congress
7 is urged to enact federal legislation granting statehood to the
8 people of the District of Columbia; and

9
10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body supports the
11 admission of the District of Columbia into the Union as a state
12 of the United States of America; and

13
14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
15 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Vice President of
16 the United States in the Vice President's capacity as presiding
17 officer of the United States Senate, Speaker of the United
18 States House of Representatives, President Pro Tempore of the
19 United States Senate, and members of Hawaii's congressional
20 delegation with the respectful request that the full and
21 complete text of this Concurrent Resolution be printed in the
22 Congressional Record.

23
24
25 OFFERED BY:



MAR 12 2021

