

MAR 05 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT FEDERAL
LEGISLATION GRANTING STATEHOOD TO THE PEOPLE OF WASHINGTON,
D.C.

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 Congress when
4 the United States Constitution was ratified in 1788; and
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6 WHEREAS, the passage of the Organic Act of 1801 placed the
7 District of Columbia under the exclusive authority of the United
8 States Congress and abolished residents' right to vote for
9 members of Congress and the President and Vice President of the
10 United States; and
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12 WHEREAS, residents of the District of Columbia were granted
13 the right to vote for the President and Vice President through
14 passage of the Twenty-Third Amendment to the United States
15 Constitution in 1961; and
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17 WHEREAS, as of 2020, the U.S. Census Bureau data estimates
18 that the District of Columbia's population at approximately
19 712,000 residents is comparable to the populations of Wyoming
20 (582,000), Vermont (623,000), Alaska (731,000), and North Dakota
21 (765,000); and
22

23 WHEREAS, residents of the District of Columbia share all
24 the responsibilities of United States citizenship, including
25 paying more federal taxes than residents of twenty-two states,
26 service on federal juries, and defending the United States as
27 members of the United States armed forces in every war since the
28 War for Independence, yet they are denied full representation in
29 Congress; and
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31 WHEREAS, the residents of the District of Columbia
32 themselves have endorsed statehood for the District of Columbia
33 and passed a District-wide referendum on November 8, 2016, which
34 favored statehood by eighty-six percent; and
35



S.R. NO. 44

1 WHEREAS, no other democratic nation denies the right of
2 self-government, including participation in its national
3 legislature, to the residents of its capital; and
4

5 WHEREAS, the residents of the District of Columbia lack
6 full democracy, equality, and citizenship enjoyed by the
7 residents of the fifty states; and
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9 WHEREAS, the United States Congress repeatedly has
10 interfered with the District of Columbia's limited self-
11 government by enacting laws that affect the District of
12 Columbia's expenditure of its locally raised tax revenue,
13 including barring the usage of locally raised revenue, thus
14 violating the fundamental principle that states and local
15 governments are best suited to enact legislation that represents
16 the will of their citizens; and
17

18 WHEREAS, although the District of Columbia has passed
19 consecutive balanced budgets since the 1997 fiscal year, it
20 still faces the possibility of being shut down yearly because of
21 Congressional deliberations over the federal budget; and
22

23 WHEREAS, District of Columbia Delegate Eleanor Holmes
24 Norton and Delaware U.S. Senator Tom Carper reintroduced in the
25 117th Congress H.R. 51 and S. 51, respectively, the Washington,
26 D.C. Admission Act, that provides that the State of Washington,
27 D.C. would have all the rights of citizenship as taxpaying
28 American citizens, including two Senators and at least one
29 member of the House of Representatives; and
30

31 WHEREAS, the United Nations Human Rights Committee has
32 called on the United States Congress to address the District of
33 Columbia's lack of political equality, and the Organization of
34 American States has declared the disenfranchisement of the
35 District of Columbia residents a violation of its charter
36 agreement, to which the United States is a signatory; now,
37 therefore,
38

39 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
40 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,
41 that the members of the United States Congress are urged to



S.R. NO. 44

1 enact federal legislation granting statehood to the people of
2 Washington, D.C.; and

3

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Hawaii supports
5 admitting Washington, D.C. into the Union as a state of the
6 United States of America; and

7

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
9 Resolution be transmitted to the four members of Hawaii's
10 congressional delegation.

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OFFERED BY:



