

MAR 11 2022

SENATE CONCURRENT 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 of the
14 United States through passage of the Twenty-third Amendment to
15 the United States Constitution in 1961; and
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17 WHEREAS, based on its annual estimate of resident
18 populations, April 1, 2020, to July 1, 2021, United States
19 Census Bureau data estimates the District of Columbia's resident
20 population at approximately 689,545 residents, which is
21 comparable to the resident populations of Wyoming (576,851),
22 Vermont (643,077), Alaska (733,391), and North Dakota (779,094);
23 and
24

25 WHEREAS, residents of the District of Columbia share all
26 the responsibilities of United States citizenship, including
27 paying more federal taxes than residents of twenty-two states,
28 service on federal juries, and defending the United States as
29 members of the United States Armed Forces in every war since the



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1 War for Independence, yet District of Columbia residents are
2 denied full representation in Congress; and
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4 WHEREAS, the residents of the District of Columbia
5 themselves have endorsed statehood for the District of Columbia
6 and passed a District-wide referendum on November 8, 2016, which
7 favored statehood by eighty-six percent; and
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9 WHEREAS, no other democratic nation denies the right of
10 self-government, including participation in its national
11 legislature, to the residents of its capital; and
12

13 WHEREAS, the residents of the District of Columbia lack
14 full democracy, equality, and citizenship enjoyed by the
15 residents of the fifty states; and
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17 WHEREAS, the United States Congress repeatedly has
18 interfered with the District of Columbia's limited self-
19 government by enacting laws that affect the District of
20 Columbia's expenditure of its locally raised tax revenue,
21 including barring the usage of locally raised revenue, thus
22 violating the fundamental principle that states and local
23 governments are best suited to enact legislation that represents
24 the will of their citizens; and
25

26 WHEREAS, although the District of Columbia has passed
27 consecutive balanced budgets since the 1997 fiscal year, it
28 still faces the possibility of being shut down yearly because of
29 Congressional deliberations over the federal budget; and
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31 WHEREAS, District of Columbia Delegate Eleanor Holmes
32 Norton and Delaware United States Senator Tom Carper
33 reintroduced in the 117th Congress H.R. 51 and S. 51,
34 respectively, the Washington, D.C. Admission Act, that provides
35 that the State of Washington, D.C. would have all the rights of
36 citizenship as taxpaying American citizens, including two
37 senators and at least one member of the House of
38 Representatives; and
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40 WHEREAS, the United Nations Human Rights Committee has
41 called on the United States Congress to address the District of
42 Columbia's lack of political equality, and the Organization of



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1 American States has declared the disenfranchisement of the
2 District of Columbia residents a violation of its charter
3 agreement, to which the United States is a signatory; now,
4 therefore,

5
6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
7 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the
8 House of Representatives concurring, that the members of the
9 United States Congress are urged to enact federal legislation
10 granting statehood to the people of Washington, D.C.; and

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

15
16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
17 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the members of Hawaii's
18 congressional delegation.

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OFFERED BY:



