By Representatives Clarke, Daniels, Gray, Drummond, Rafferty, Lawrence and McCampbell

RFD: Rules

First Read: 11-MAR-21
URGING MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO
ENACT FEDERAL LEGISLATION GRANTING STATEHOOD TO THE PEOPLE OF
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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

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

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

WHEREAS, as of 2020, the U.S. Census Bureau data
estimates that the District of Columbia's population at
approximately 712,000 residents is comparable to the
populations of Wyoming (582,000), Vermont (623,000), Alaska (731,000), and North Dakota (765,000); and

WHEREAS, the residents of the District of Columbia share all the responsibilities of United States citizenship, including paying more in federal taxes than residents in 22 states, service on federal juries, and defending the United States as members of the United States armed forces in every war since the War for Independence, yet they are denied full representation in Congress; and

WHEREAS, the residents of the District of Columbia themselves have endorsed statehood for the District of Columbia and passed a district-wide referendum on November 8, 2016, which favored statehood by 86 percent; and

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

WHEREAS, the residents of the District of Columbia lack full democracy, equality, and citizenship enjoyed by the residents of the 50 states; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress has repeatedly interfered with the District of Columbia's limited self-government by enacting laws that affect the District of Columbia's expenditure of its locally raised tax revenue, including barring the usage of locally raised revenue, thus violating the fundamental principle that states and local governments are best suited to enact legislation that represents the will of their citizens; and
WHEREAS, although the District of Columbia has passed consecutive balanced budgets since fiscal year 1997, it still faces the possibility of being shut down yearly because of Congressional deliberations over the federal budget; and

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the State of Alabama supports admitting Washington, D.C. into the Union as a state of the United States of America and that the members of the United States Congress are urged to enact federal legislation granting statehood to the people of Washington, D.C.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be provided to the Alabama Congressional Delegation so that the strong sentiments of this body may be known.