

1 HR116
2 211253-1
3 By Representatives Clarke, Daniels, Gray, Drummond, Rafferty,
4 Lawrence and McCampbell
5 RFD: Rules
6 First Read: 11-MAR-21

2
3
4
5
6
7
8 URGING MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO
9 ENACT FEDERAL LEGISLATION GRANTING STATEHOOD TO THE PEOPLE OF
10 WASHINGTON, D.C.
11

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

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

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

25 WHEREAS, as of 2020, the U.S. Census Bureau data
26 estimates that the District of Columbia's population at
27 approximately 712,000 residents is comparable to the

1 populations of Wyoming (582,000), Vermont (623,000), Alaska
2 (731,000), and North Dakota (765,000); and

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

10 WHEREAS, the residents of the District of Columbia
11 themselves have endorsed statehood for the District of
12 Columbia and passed a district-wide referendum on November 8,
13 2016, which favored statehood by 86 percent; and

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

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

20 WHEREAS, the United States Congress has repeatedly
21 interfered with the District of Columbia's limited
22 self-government by enacting laws that affect the District of
23 Columbia's expenditure of its locally raised tax revenue,
24 including barring the usage of locally raised revenue, thus
25 violating the fundamental principle that states and local
26 governments are best suited to enact legislation that
27 represents the will of their citizens; and

1 WHEREAS, although the District of Columbia has
2 passed consecutive balanced budgets since fiscal year 1997, it
3 still faces the possibility of being shut down yearly because
4 of Congressional deliberations over the federal budget; and

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

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

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

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