

REFERENCE TITLE: Washington, D.C.; statehood; opposition

State of Arizona  
House of Representatives  
Fifty-fifth Legislature  
First Regular Session  
2021

## **HCR 2035**

Introduced by

Representatives Blackman: Barton, Biasiucci, Bolick, Burges, Carroll, Cobb, Cook, Dunn, Fillmore, Finchem, Grantham, Griffin, Hoffman, John, Kaiser, Kavanagh, Nguyen, Nutt, Osborne, Parker, Payne, Pingerelli, Pratt, Roberts, Toma, Weninger, Wilmeth, Senators Barto, Borrelli, Gowan, Kerr, Mesnard, Shope

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

DECLARING THE STATE OF ARIZONA'S OPPOSITION TO ANY FEDERAL ACTION TO GRANT STATEHOOD TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1           Whereas, *Article I, section 8, clause 17 of the United States*  
2 *Constitution provides that the federal government be housed in an*  
3 *independent seat separate from any state or congressional district; and*

4           Whereas, *Article I, section 8, clause 17 of the United States*  
5 *Constitution states that Congress, not any state legislature, is to*  
6 *exercise exclusive legislation over the district that shall house the*  
7 *federal government; and*

8           Whereas, *the delegates to the Constitutional Convention of 1787*  
9 *chose to give Congress complete authority over the district so that the*  
10 *federal government would be insulated from undue pressures and*  
11 *interruptions; and*

12           Whereas, *James Madison stated in The Federalist Papers No. 43 that*  
13 *maintaining the seat of the federal government as an independent district*  
14 *was an "indispensable necessity"; and*

15           Whereas, *the District of Columbia was formed in explicit adherence*  
16 *to the Constitution, and the decision to form the District of Columbia as*  
17 *an independent district without senators or congressional representatives*  
18 *was not a mistake or oversight on the part of the Founding Fathers, but*  
19 *rather an integral part of the original constitutional design to keep the*  
20 *seat of our federal government out of the partisan political process in*  
21 *order to maintain it as "the servant of all the people, and not become our*  
22 *master"; and*

23           Whereas, *House Resolution 51 (H.R. 51), a bill introduced in the*  
24 *United States Congress, would irreparably damage the constitutional*  
25 *arrangement between the states and the government of the United States;*  
26 *and*

27           Whereas, *the provisioning of statehood status to Washington, D.C.*  
28 *would grant undue influence over the federal government to those who would*  
29 *act as its congressional representatives.*

30 Therefore

31 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona,  
32 the Senate concurring:

33           1. That the Members of the Legislature do inform Congress of our  
34 zealous opposition to any attempt by the federal government to grant  
35 statehood to Washington, D.C., as such effort would directly violate  
36 Article I, section 8, clause 17 of the United States Constitution.

37           2. That the Members of the Legislature oppose H.R. 51 and any  
38 subsequent enactment of the terms of this proposal and implore the Members  
39 of the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate  
40 to oppose the same.

41           3. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit a  
42 copy of this Resolution to the President of the United States Senate, the  
43 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, each Member of  
44 Congress from the State of Arizona and each Speaker of the House of  
45 Representatives and each President of the Senate of the other state  
46 legislatures.