A memorial to the Congress of the United States, urging Congress to admit the District of Columbia as the 51st state of the United States of America.

WHEREAS, citizens of the District of Columbia have been denied federal voting rights and complete self-governance since 1801, and

WHEREAS, the District’s 600,000 residents are not entitled to full voting representation in Congress and lack an autonomous local government, and

WHEREAS, residents of the District pay more than $3.8 billion each year in federal income taxes, yet have no voice as to how their taxes are spent, and

WHEREAS, Congress oversees the democratically elected District government and can change or veto any budget or legislative matter passed by its locally elected officials, and

WHEREAS, over 40,000 veterans reside in the District of Columbia, which accounts for more veterans per capita than any other city in the nation, and

WHEREAS, residents of the District have fought and given their lives in every international conflict beginning with the War for Independence and, during the Vietnam conflict, registered more casualties than 10 states and recorded more deaths per capita than 47 states, and

WHEREAS, the international effort to plant and nurture democracy in the farthest reaches of the globe is diminished at home by the denial of democracy to the District’s residents, and

WHEREAS, it is an extreme contradiction that this nation,
the exemplary leader of representative democracy, denies national voting representation to the residents of its capital, and

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia is the only entity in the United States whose residents shoulder the complete responsibilities of citizenship without enjoying the complete privileges of citizenship, NOW, THEREFORE,

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

That the Legislature formally declares its support for admitting the District of Columbia as the 51st state of the United States of America.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be dispatched to the President of the United States, to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.