WHEREAS, the District of Columbia is not currently afforded the right to representation in the Congress of the United States because it is not a state; and

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia is not afforded the right to local control because federal law grants that power to the Congress of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia has no historically recognized path to statehood, unlike most other territories of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia has a population of over 700,000 persons who are disenfranchised from voting; and

WHEREAS, residents of the District of Columbia are subject to federal income taxation without representation in the Congress of the United States or the right to enact local laws inconsistent with any regulations of the Congress of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia's status as a type of "last colony" is largely a matter of historical accident because of the primary concern of the founders with creating a new federal government and their inattention to the small, sparsely populated swampland that comprised the District of Columbia in 1790;
WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States has power, under Section 3, Article IV of the Constitution of the United States, to authorize the admission of existing territories such as the District of Columbia as new states upon the passage of a federal law:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred First General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate concurring therein, hereby urge Congress to admit the District of Columbia as the fifty-first state of the Union; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, the Missouri Congressional delegation, and the legislatures of each state.