



March 24, 2021

Chairperson Robert E. Craven  
House Committee on Judiciary  
Rhode Island State House

League of Women Voters of RI  
1 Richmond Square  
Providence, RI 02906

**Subject: RI League of Women Voters Supports House Resolution 5609**

Honorable Chairman Craven and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to you on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Rhode Island to show our strong support for **H 5609**. This bill is a resolution supporting statehood for the District of Columbia.

More than 700,000 residents live in DC, which is more than that of Wyoming and Vermont, yet its residents still lack voting members in the U.S. House and Senate. Without these voting members, residents of DC are denied a voice in Congress to defend them from attacks on their own locally passed laws and citizen backed initiatives.

This country was founded under the slogan "No taxation without representation!" This is as valid for these 700,000 citizens today as it was in 1776. (At the time of the revolution, Rhode Island's population was estimated at 68,825.)

Residents in DC deserve full representation in Congress.

Thank you for supporting the extension of democracy to the 700,000 residents of our nation's capital.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane W. Koster". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Jane Koster, President  
League of Women Voters of Rhode Island