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A HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO MEMORIALIZE THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO ENACT LEGISLATION GRANTING FULL DEMOCRACY AND STATEHOOD FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA THAT WILL GUARANTEE TO THE RESIDENTS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FULL CONGRESSIONAL VOTING REPRESENTATION, BUDGET AUTONOMY, AND ALL OF THE RIGHTS THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE FIFTY UNITED STATES ENJOY.

Whereas, the U.S. Constitution that was ratified in 1788 provided the right to vote for representation in Congress to the “People living” in the several states of the United States, and included citizens of the several states as well as those living on the land that would later be designated by the federal government for the nation’s capital as ceded by Maryland and Virginia to become the District of Columbia; and

Whereas, through the enactment of the “District of Columbia Organic Act of 1801” residents of the District of Columbia (DC) were disenfranchised from voting for representative Members of Congress for 210 years; and

Whereas, DC residents pay among the highest per capita federal taxes in the nation and more than 200,000 residents have served in the federal armed services, and yet DC residents have no vote in the US Congress; and

Whereas, no other nation in the world denies the right of self-government, including participation in its national legislature, to the residents of its capital; and

1 Whereas, the residents of the District of Columbia lack full
2 democracy, equality, and citizenship enjoyed by the residents of
3 the fifty states; and

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5 Whereas, the new House majority began the 112th Congress by
6 stripping DC Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton of a vote in the
7 Committee of the Whole, and implementing new legislation
8 trampling on DC Home Rule including overriding a Congressional
9 and local compromise on private school vouchers for DC; and

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11 Whereas, on January 12, 2011, DC Delegate Norton introduced
12 three bills on attaining self-governance for the District of
13 Columbia: the New Columbia Admission Act providing for
14 statehood for DC, the DC Equal Representation Act allowing DC
15 both House and Senate seats, and the DC House Voting Rights Act
16 providing DC a House vote; and

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18 Whereas, on January 19, 2011 DC Delegate Norton introduced the
19 DC Budget Autonomy Act of 2011 to allow the DC budget of local
20 taxpayer-raised funds to become law without Congressional
21 approval, recognizing that while the District of Columbia has
22 timely passed a balanced budget for each of the last sixteen years,
23 the District of Columbia has faced the possibility of being shut
24 down each year because of Congressional deliberations over the
25 federal budget and the imposition of riders opposed by the District
26 of Columbia; and

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28 Whereas, the residents of the District of Columbia have endorsed
29 statehood for the District of Columbia, and have been pressing for
30 Congressional voting rights and budget autonomy. Now,
31 therefore,

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33 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

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35 That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives,
36 by this resolution, respectfully memorialize Congress to enact
37 legislation granting full democracy and statehood for the District
38 of Columbia that will guarantee to the residents of the District of
39 Columbia full Congressional voting representation, budget
40 autonomy, and all of the rights that the people of the fifty United
41 States enjoy.

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1 Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to
2 the South Carolina Congressional Delegation.
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