

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 743

By Turner M

A RESOLUTION urging Congress to guarantee the voting rights of the citizens of the District of Columbia and recognize the District of Columbia as the fifty-first state of the union.

WHEREAS, this nation is founded on the principled belief that all people are endowed with certain inalienable rights and, that to secure these rights, governments are instituted, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; and

WHEREAS, the rights of the citizens of the District of Columbia are abridged when the United States Congress imposes its will upon local matters and denies their voting representation on federal issues in both houses of Congress; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the District of Columbia pay more than three billion dollars in annual income taxes to the Federal Treasury - more, per capita, than the residents of all but one state; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the District of Columbia, per capita, have fought in more wars to protect the liberties and rights of all Americans and democracies around the world than the citizens of any other state; and

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia is the only United States jurisdiction not permitted to spend its own local tax dollars without approval by Congress; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the District of Columbia serve on federal juries and are subject to the rule of law of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the District of Columbia are the only Americans who bear all of the responsibilities of citizenship but do not enjoy all of the rights of citizenship, including those of local sovereignty and representation in both houses of Congress. This makes the District of Columbia a colony under Congressional jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, a national poll found that seventy-two percent of respondents supported the granting to the District of Columbia full representation in Congress, making a compelling case for statehood; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of statehood will ensure that the citizens of the District of Columbia will enjoy full sovereign rights in local matters and voting representation in both houses of Congress; and

WHEREAS, currently, the citizens of the District of Columbia are denied their full and effective representation in Congress, in which they are represented by a single, non-voting delegate in the House of Representatives. They have no delegate in the Senate; and

WHEREAS, Congress has the authority, under Article IV, Section 3 of the United States Constitution, to admit the District of Columbia as the fifty-first state of the union and to provide for voting representation in Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby urge the United States Congress to recognize and guarantee to the citizens of the District of Columbia their fundamental right to voting legislation and to support legislation granting the same.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this body supports the attainment of congressional voting representation and statehood for the District of Columbia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we hereby designate April 16, 2010, as “National D.C. Statehood Day” in Tennessee in support of the citizens of the District of Columbia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.